



ESTABLISHED 1859.

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C. & D. DIARY.

COPIES of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1900 should now be in the hands of all our home subscribers. They have been sent out by the Globe Express (Limited), passenger-train, and parcel-post. Carriage has been paid to destination in all cases, but if there is any demand in respect to local charges we should be obliged if subscribers would pay, take a receipt, and send it to us, we will refund the money.

THE DIARY COUPON.

EACH copy of the DIARY contains a Coupon entitling the holder or his delegate to participate in a competition for ten guineas in prizes. Full particulars are given on the Coupon. We shall be glad if subscribers will answer the questions, and send in the postcards as soon as possible, so that the work of adjudication may be expedited.

OUR WINTER ISSUE.

THIS falls on January 27, 1900. The publisher has commenced his preparations for it, and an original illuminated cover is in the hands of the printers. We mention that fact to show that the time is ripe for giving orders for circulars, price-lists, or other insets, which firms may think of inserting in our Winter issue. The C. & D. publisher has printed instructions in regard to the "make-up" of insets, which should be obtained. We may add that rough ideas for insets can be worked up by our artists, if desired.

Summary.

FOR NEW STORE-PRICES see p. 930.

A GOOLE GROCER has been fined 10% for infringing the Pharmacy Act (p. 957).

MR. E. W. LUCAS communicates some useful hints and working formulæ (p. 959).

THE DEPOSITS OF SODIUM SULPHATE are described in a paper by Mr. Hymans (p. 952).

SOME of the questions set at the Spectacle-makers examination are given on p. 959.

DR. THOMAS STEVENSON, as limned by the *Vanity Fair* cartoonist, is shown on p. 945.

"THE ABSENT-MINDED CUTTER" is the latest production from our staff poet's pen (p. 950).

OUR TOWN TRAVELLER has picked up some new ideas in his walks around the town (p. 940).

A COMPLETE SUMMARY of the country's vote on the company question is given on p. 955.

THE CASTIGATION of Mr. Victor Horsley by Mr. Carter is the subject of one of "Xrayser's" notes (p. 945).

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL has resolved to do nothing regarding unqualified dispensers (p. 937).

ASALETIDA was the subject of a discussion at the Society of Public Analysts on Wednesday evening (p. 952).

DENTISTS who advertise receive a strong hint from the General Medical Council as to their conduct (p. 937).

OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT writes an assuring note regarding the French feeling towards Britishers (p. 932).

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE has views on the one-man-company question which are applicable to pharmacy (p. 957).

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that the Bovril "Alas! my poor brother" showcard originated in a C. & D. competition (p. 961).

SOME IDEAS in regard to the fireproofing of timber were laid before the Society of Chemical Industry on Monday (p. 951).

THE MANCHESTER SECTION of the Society of Chemical Industry has discussed the position of public analysts (p. 952).

RHODESIA CHEMISTS have had the spirit to dine together recently, when the defeat of the Pharmacy Ordinance was referred to (p. 933).

A BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA REPORT was laid before the Medical Council on Tuesday. It dealt chiefly with the Colonial Addendum (p. 947).

UNSUCCESSFUL COMPANIES are increasing in number and entail a huge financial loss to the community, as will be seen from the article on p. 948.

NOTHING was done by the Pharmaceutical Council regarding the company question this week, although the President said they were not waiting (p. 935).

MR. E. M. HOLMES has opened the scientific and literary section of the Wellcome Club at Dartford with a lecture on "The Wonders of Vegetable Life" (p. 951).

THE ISLE OF MAN PHARMACY ACT has been somewhat modified by the Legislative Council, and further provision is made for the registration of assistants (p. 948).

A LIVERPOOL FIRM have been fined 25% and 10% 10s. costs for selling camphorated oil which was deficient in camphor and was made with a lubricating-oil (p. 958).

LONDON CHEMISTS have appointed a general committee to make arrangements for entertaining the British Pharmaceutical Conference, and it is suggested that the Conference should begin on July 23, 1900 (p. 936).

MINCING LANE and 'Change prices are rising as the year closes. This is notably the case with aconite, belladonna, chamomiles, cocoa butter, mercurials, and quicksilver, but German camphor and quinine are cheaper (p. 935).

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Chemists' Defence.

A gathering of Norwich chemists took place on November 30, to discuss the Chemists' Defence scheme, which was explained to the meeting by Mr. W. Johnston, of London. Mr. Gardiner asked why it was necessary to make the concern a limited liability company. He thought it might have been managed with less trouble by an ordinary company. It was explained that the limited liability principle had been adopted by the advice of the Association's solicitor, on the ground that the Association was to carry on business as an insurance company. The share system would tend, moreover, to give the scheme more stability. Mr. Making suggested that the word "prescribing" should be added to the insurance clause, so that it read "any mistake in dispensing, prescribing, or retailing of drugs, &c." Mr. Johnston considered that "dispensing" included "prescribing," but Mr. Hayhoe thought "prescribing" an undesirable word to introduce, for legal reasons. A resolution cordially approving of the new Association was unanimously adopted.

A Dispenser's Resignation.

Recently Mr. Preece, the dispenser of the Birkenhead Guardians, was called upon by his Board to resign, in consequence of Dr. Martin having reported that he permitted overcharges in the invoices for goods supplied by Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co. to pass unchecked, and the auditors said he did not keep his books in a satisfactory manner. The subject was revived at the meeting of the Board last week, when a motion was submitted by Mr. J. Evans to rescind the motion calling upon Mr. Preece to resign. The ground of the motion was that only eleven members had been present when the matter was previously discussed and the resignation resolved upon, and it was desirable to have the opinion of the whole Board upon it. A long discussion ensued upon the motion, in the course of which it was maintained that it was a case of the word of Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co. against that of Dr. Martin. Dr. Martin replied at some length to his critics, stating that when the drug-contract was held by Messrs. R. Sumner & Co. Mr. Preece frequently reported overcharges, but did not do so when Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co. were the contractors. One time he had complained that the sp. gr. of some medicine supplied by Messrs. Sumner was wrong, and he found that Mr. Preece had gone to Messrs. Evans in order to get the fact determined. Dr. Martin then gave various instances of overcharges which Mr. Preece had not indicated, such as 6s per lb. for chloroform, 1s. 9d. per oz. for a hypodermic injection listed at 8d., 3l. 3s. for oxygen-cylinders, and 5s. 6d. for enemias; while no reduction in price was made for Winchester quarts of preparations. Alderman Getley spoke strongly in favour of Mr. Preece, and objected to the Board's procedure as being a reflection upon Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., who had had no opportunity to reply. The mover of the motion, in reply to the whole discussion, argued that if Mr. Preece fell Messrs. Evans must fall too, as there was a charge against them. The motion was rejected by ten to seven.

Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co. have sent the following letter regarding the matter to the *Birkenhead News*:—

Our attention has been called to the report in your issue of November 29 of the meeting of the Guardians at which this question was discussed. We hasten to inform you—and, through you, the Guardians and the public generally—that the statements made by Dr. Martin (if he is correctly reported in your issue) are absolutely untrue, and the allegations against our firm have all been shown to Dr. Martin's knowledge to have been without foundation. We have instructed our solicitors to require Dr. Martin to withdraw his statements. We shall feel obliged if you will insert this in your next issue.

Fire.

A slight fire occurred at the factory of Messrs. Idris & Co. (Limited), Camden Town, on December 3, but

newspaper reports have much exaggerated it. The firm assure us that very little damage was done, and it has not interfered with business at all, while the loss is fully covered by insurance.

Store-prices.

The following are noted in the December circular of the Civil Service Supply Association:—

ADDED.—Post's C.B.Q. Remedy, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 3d. per bottle; Yardley's cold-cream and oatmeal soap, 2½d. per tablet, 2s. 3d. per dozen; Yardley's Savon Velours, 1s. 1d. per box of 3 tablets; Cleaver's terebene shaving-cakes (in metal boxes), 9d. each.

ADVANCED.—Allcock's corn and bunion plasters, from 9½ to 10½d. per box; Seigel's syrup, from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d. per bottle; crushed linseed, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d. per 7-lb. parcel; respirators, from 8d. and 1s. 9d. to 1s. and 2s. each.

REDUCED.—Antexema, from 1s. 3d. to 10½d. per bottle.

Suspected the Lotion.

At an inquiry held at Bovey-Tracey on December 2, respecting the death of a labourer named Davey, evidence was given that deceased, who had been kicked in the leg by a horse, after being treated by a doctor, was attended by a man named Hornsey, a watchmaker, of Exeter, who supplied him with bottles of lotion. Deceased, who had been ailing since August, died on November 30, and the doctor who was called in in the first instance, and was again sent for, refused to give a certificate. In the course of his evidence the doctor said a *post-mortem* examination showed that death was due to hæmorrhage of the lungs, but he considered that the shock to the system caused by the severe effects of the lotion supplied by Hornsey might have weakened deceased. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes, adding that the interference of an unqualified man, and the application of his lotion, had been a grave mistake.

One Case a Month.

An inquest was held at Portsmouth on December 1, on the body of a woman named Tibble, who was found in an out-house with an empty chlorodyne-bottle bearing the label of Timothy White (Limited) near her. Deceased, who was a heavy drinker, was removed to the hospital, but died three hours after admission.

Dr. M. H. Way, house-surgeon at the hospital, drew the attention of the Coroner to the fact that this was the third case of chlorodyne-poisoning during the last three months, and the second fatal one. In each case the circumstances were similar, and showed that it was the easiest thing in the world to procure chlorodyne, as it was not a registered poison.

The Coroner said he believed the Government were considering the matter.

The Coroner's officer deposed that he had inquired of Messrs. Timothy White as to whether they sold the poison to the deceased. The only reply he could obtain was that they "did not remember it." The Coroner remarked that he would have to bring them to the court next time, and the jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind through excessive drinking.

Asked for the Oil.

A man named Millington went to the shop of Mr. H. M. Ashton, chemist, Sankey Street, Warrington, with the intention of obtaining some carbohc acid. He, however, asked for carbolic oil instead; and although he promptly swallowed it, a timely emetic, with the aid of the stomach-pump, precluded fatal results.

Charge Against a Herbalist.

At Southwark Police-court on December 2, Jethro Lardent (36), herbalist, was charged with feloniously receiving three casks of cod-liver oil, 8 lbs. iodoform, 7 lbs. camphor, and a bottle of mercury, of the total value of 27l. 12s., the property of Mr. Alan Hicks, wholesale druggist, 64 Park Street, S.E. John Jones (30) and Henry Parker (27) were charged with stealing the goods. The evidence for the prosecution foreshadowed that a further charge of conspiracy might be formulated. Accused were remanded, bail for Lardent being fixed at two sureties in 100l. each.

Chemists' Shop Broken into.

On November 30 the chemist's shop occupied by T. Lyall & Co., in Fowler Street, South Shields, was broken into and

some perfume and chocolates stolen. The till fortunately was empty, and the value of the stolen goods is small.

Rival Specialities.

At the Royal Court of Jersey on December 2, Mr. John Renouf, jun., of "The Drug-stores," St. Helier, obtained local registration of the label of "Dr. Morell's Celebrated Cough-mixture." A previous speciality of "The Drug-stores," "Dr. Davidson's Cough-mixture," is now being made by Mr. J. Sinel, a former assistant of Mr. Renouf's, who has started "The New Drug-stores" a few doors away, and who claims that the recipe was originally given to him by the late Dr. Hermann Davidson, a medical officer in the Federal army.

Football.

Inter-Pharmacy Football League.—Metropolitan College F.C. v. London College of Pharmacy.—Played at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, on December 2. Result: Win for the "Metros." by 3 goals to 1.

The Assistant's Freak.

At the Leek Police Court on November 29, Henry Salt, chemist's assistant, Leek, was charged with "falsely taking the designation and character of a constable" on November 19, and two other young men were charged with aiding and abetting. The evidence given was to the effect that the young men followed a man named Pegg home, brought him out of the house, and took him in the direction of the police-station, telling him they were detectives. They left him near the police-station, and he went home, but they brought him out a second time. The Bench believed it was only a lark, and ordered the accused to pay the costs—12s. 6d. each.

The Herbalist's Mixture.

The adjourned inquest on the body of a young married woman named Richards, who died after taking a mixture prescribed by a herbalist named Vorley, was resumed at Rushden on December 5. Particulars of the case were given in our issue of November 25, page 849, and Dr. Thomas Stevenson, Government Analyst, now deposed that he found no poison or noxious substance in either the stomach or intestines. The mixture prescribed by Vorley contained rue and pennyroyal amongst other substances, but if properly taken it would cause no injury. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure, adding a rider calling attention to the unsatisfactory state of the law which permitted an unqualified person to supply medicine.

Isle of Man Pharmacy Bill.

We deal elsewhere (page 948) with this measure, as it has been amended by the Legislative Council. In the course of the debate on the fourth clause, the Attorney-General referred to company-pharmacy, stating that he had had a communication from the Irish Society on this point, and also from a joint-stock company—Boots (Limited). His own view was that as they in the Island were now considering legislation on a subject that was begun to be dealt with in England so far back as 1815, they would do well if nearly at the end of the century they passed an Act bringing the law of the Island on the point abreast of the law of England, and if an Act dealing with companies was passed in England they could follow.

The Deputy-Governor was of the same opinion, and, Deemster Gell having explained the English and Irish law, the clause passed. On the registration clause (sixth),

The Attorney-General said that strong representations had been made to him by the local chemists' Society that it would be unwise to include all persons in business as chemists up to the passing of the Act, and that they should be restricted to chemists in business up to July 5, 1899. It had also been suggested that the Apothecaries' Assistants' certificate should be required from assistants after a certain date, and he had altered the clause accordingly. He explained that the Irish Druggists' certificate was not recognised, as it did not cover compounding of medicines. The clause was passed. Later on, the Attorney-General explained, in reply to a question, that he had had constant consultations with Mr. Radcliffe, Secretary of the local chemists' Society, and had received two deputations from the Society. The only other point of

general interest in the debate was the following conversation on the Poison Schedule:—

The Bishop remarked that the schedule did not include carbolic acid.

The Receiver-General said it might be advisable to include it.

The Attorney-General said he was most anxious to include but in England all efforts to include it had so far failed.

Deemster Kneen: This schedule includes all that are in the English list up to date?

The Attorney-General: Yes.

Deemster Kneen: Then I do not think we can go beyond that.

The Bishop: Can anything be added to the list hereafter?

The Attorney-General: Yes; whatever is added by the Pharmaceutical Society and approved by the Privy Council will be added *ipso facto*.

Found Dead.

An inquiry was held at Lambeth on December 4 touching the death of a chemist named Arthur Gooch. Deceased was found dead in bed, and the medical evidence went to show that death was due to a fatty heart.

Carbolic on the Table.

At Chester, on December 2, a boy named John Brannan, 5 years of age, was admitted to the infirmary suffering from carbolic poisoning. During the absence of his mother the little fellow drank some carbolic acid which was on the table. He lies in a precarious condition.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

Sir James H. Haslett, M.P., Belfast, has had rather a serious illness, but is now on the way to recovery.

Army Dispenserships.

Temporary appointments as army compounders at Dublin are likely to be vacant immediately. Pharmaceutical chemists willing to undertake the duty can obtain details from Mr. A. T. Ferrall, 73 Lower Mount Street, Dublin.

Pharmaceutical School of Chemistry.

The class for theoretical chemistry and physics began work on December 2. Intending students can obtain details from the Registrar, Mr. A. T. Ferrall.

A Favourable Season.

At the annual meeting of the Belfast Mineral-water Company (Limited), held at Belfast last week, it was stated that the past season had been most favourable for the consumption of aerated waters. A dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum was declared, and Messrs. O'Hare, Fitzsimons, O'Neill, and McAllister were elected directors.

The Venue Changed.

In the Queen's Bench Division, Dublin, on December 2, Mr. White, pharmaceutical chemist, Sligo, moved to have the venue of a right-of-way trial between himself and a man named Roddy changed from Sligo to Dublin. The case had been tried in Sligo on three successive occasions, and each time the jury disagreed. The Court thought another atmosphere would be beneficial to both parties, and granted the motion.

"Paraffin-water."

In reference to the case reported in the *C. & D.*, November 11, page 779, in which Dr. M. R. Whitla's name was mentioned, we observe that although he was one of the applicants in the matter, he was not peculiarly interested in the case, and his connection with it was formal rather than personal. There was a little local feeling in the matter, but the Judge specially referred to Dr. Whitla's popularity in the district.

A Knock-out.

At Limerick last week two privates in the Cheshire Regiment were charged with having broken the plate-glass window of Messrs. Boyd's drug and chemical establishment in William Street, and with having stolen two bottles of Apenta water, a quantity of brown-leather polish, and other articles. The damage done to the window was estimated at 12s. The soldiers said they broke the glass because they "had not been sent to the front to knock out the Boers." They were committed for trial at the Munster Assizes, where, on December 4, they were each sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Supposed Carbolic Case.

Mrs. Eliza Kelly died on December 1 in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, to which she had been taken in an unconscious state. It is supposed that deceased took carbolic acid, as she had previously purchased some at a chemist's shop in Dorset Street, and a quantity of the acid was found in her room.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

A. New Dispensary.

A branch for dispensing medicines for outdoor relief is to be opened in Tay Street, Dundee, in connection with the Royal Infirmary.

Poison-bottles Wanted.

A woman named Henderson, living in Dundee, drank a quantity of lotion for external application, in mistake, on December 5. The lotion is said to have been dispensed at the Royal Infirmary for an out-patient, and was not contained in a poison-bottle.

Cyanide Suspected.

The body of a watchmaker named Boyd, who carried on business in Largs, was found at night lying on the road near that town, on December 4. A small glass flask containing cyanide of potassium was lying beside the body.

Business Change.

Mrs. William Donaldson, widow of the late Mr. W. Donaldson, chemist, Brora, intimates that, as allowed under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, she intends to continue the business of chemist and druggist with which her husband's name was so long associated. She has secured the services of a fully-qualified chemist as manager.

Students' Smoker.

The pharmacy students of the Royal Dispensary, Edinburgh, held their annual smoking-concert on December 1. The chair was occupied by Mr. Strachan until Mr. Duncan (the principal) arrived later in the evening. An excellent programme was gone through, the students showing great musical ability, both instrumental and vocal. At the suggestion of the Chairman a collection for the Soldiers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund was made. The sum of 2s. 10s. was realised, and was duly sent to the *Scotsman* Fund.

Hatrick's New Premises.

Messrs. W. & R. Hatrick & Co., wholesale druggists, have recently completed the rebuilding of their premises in Renfield Street, Glasgow, on the same site as the warehouse which was burned to the ground two years ago. In the interval business had been carried on in temporary premises at Waterloo Street. The new building is a handsome structure of four storeys (see *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, 1900, page 149), with a frontage of 120 feet and total floor-space of about 40,000 feet. The experience of two years ago has naturally made the firm careful about the fire-prevention arrangements, which are as complete as they can be made. The arrangements for business are substantially as follows. On the street floor

are the offices, which occupy one-half of the floor, and the rest is devoted to the packing, despatch, and receipt of goods, there being abundance of room and excellent lighting. A wide stone staircase leads to the basement, which extends partly under the street, and is used for storage of oils, acids, ammonia, and the like. The stone staircase and a hydraulic hoist communicate with all the floors. On the larger half of the spacious first floor above are the "drys," and in the remainder of the space a portion of the "wets" and the patents and sundries. The finishing-counter in this room runs the entire length of the house, and is in easy communication by lifts and otherwise, and in telephonic connection, with all the other departments of the house. The new varnished whitewood bins are an attractive feature of this floor, and seem to be as numerous as drawers in a retail pharmacy. Here also our representative noted the stoppered earthenware containers for tinctures to be unusually well labelled, the name being burnt in, and the poisonous ones prominently distinguished. Adjoining this floor is a fireproof room, about 12 feet square, corresponding to others exactly similar on each floor, access to each being gained by iron doors, so that a series of absolutely fireproof safes or strong-rooms runs from basement to roof of the building. Most of the second floor is occupied by dry goods and glassware, as well as a packing-department—almost the only part of the building in which women are engaged, their deft fingers being necessary to give counter-specialties the requisite finish. One of the strong-rooms is to be devoted to packing tinctures, &c., in bond for export—a branch of their business which Messrs. Hatrick are developing successfully with some of the British dependencies which are in close commercial touch with the "second city of the Empire." The third floor is full of original packages of drugs, and the fourth is the laboratory. Here, as in every other part of the building, the constructional details are the design of Mr. W. Lindsay Hatrick, to whom it must now be some satisfaction to know that the house is one of the most complete drug-warehouses and pharmaceutical laboratories in the provinces. Mr. Lindsay Hatrick is the managing proprietor of the business, which was founded in Paisley in 1830, and removed to Glasgow in 1860, the present proprietors being the third generation in the concern.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

"LEÇONS DE PHARMACODYNAMIE ET DE MATIÈRE MÉDICALE" is the title of a little volume of a hundred pages recently published by Professor G. Pouchet, containing the first series of twenty-eight lectures on the subject at the Paris Faculty of Medicine.

ANGLO-FRENCH INTERCOURSE.—I met an English pharmacist here a few days ago who told me frankly that he had felt a distinct disinclination to come to Paris just then owing to the impression he had obtained by reading the newspapers at home that feeling in France is hostile to us at the present time. He added that he would certainly not have crossed the Channel now had he not been obliged to do so for business purposes. I expressed my surprise that he should have formed such an opinion, as I have seen little or none of this supposed hostility to individual Englishmen here, although I come daily in contact with many French people in various classes of society, and also with a number of men from the three kingdoms who are engaged in business here. After chatting the matter over, my friend and I could only come to the conclusion that, in their anxiety to produce readable matter, enterprising special correspondents of some of the English daily papers inadvertently pick out certain items of news or refer to isolated caricatures as ordinary everyday occurrences when they should rather be spoken of as the exception or even as eccentricities. I do not pretend that the French press is friendly to us just now, but I am certain that individuals may be sure of courteous treatment; and if any English pharmacist is consulted by a customer as to whether a visit, for instance, to the Riviera may safely be made with due regard to personal comfort as regards the courteous attitude of French people, he can certainly reply in the affirmative.

South African News.

(From our Correspondents.)

RAILWAY CONTRACTS.—The contracts for the supply of drugs, sundries, &c., to the Cape Government Railways, and other systems worked by them, have been made. The successful contractors are as follows. For the Western system, P. J. Petersen & Co.; Midland and Rhodesian system, Lennon (Limited), Port Elizabeth; and Eastern system, Lennon (Limited), East London.

CHESNEY AND BOVRIL.—The agent for Bovril (Limited) writes to the *Cape Argus* taking exception to the following paragraph contained in an imaginary letter from the race-horse Chesney, after the safe arrival of that animal on *terra firma* from the wrecked Aberdeen liner *Thermopylae* off Green Point, Table Bay:—

... and Kiora, who, I might remark, does not, as a simple steppelchaser, hold very ambitious views, observed that, as he would probably find himself some day converted into Bovril or preserved meat ...

Mr. S. C. Benson, the agent in question, remarks that a considerable amount of damage is liable to be caused by such unwarrantable remarks, and asks that in future their recurrence may be prevented. The Editorial remark in reply is, "Can it be possible that the Bovril directors take poor Chesney seriously?" The chemist's assistant who said he brought Chesney ashore is still, by the way, without his reward of 500*l.*, reported to have been offered.

RHODESIAN CHEMISTS DINE.—The first dinner of the Rhodesian Pharmaceutical Society was held at the Grand Hotel, Bulawayo, on October 6, Mr. L. F. Moore (Moore & Co.), President, in the chair. After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of, Mr. W. Dawn Copley, the Secretary, in the course of his report, said that every eligible chemist and chemist's assistant in Rhodesia had either joined the Society or intended doing so as soon as the New Year commenced. He alluded to the loss the Society had sustained by the death of Mr. F. J. Byrne, during his term of presidentship, and stated that in financial affairs they had a larger amount in hand than they required. Referring to the work of the Society during the year, he recalled the opposition which had been successfully given by the Society to the proposed Pharmacy Ordinance, and detailed all the steps which had been taken to wreck that objectionable Bill. After referring to the appointment of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as the official organ of the Society, he concluded by asking them to continue to make themselves heard on subjects concerning their interests, and predicted that if they worked together as well in the future as they had during the first year of their existence they would have greater cause than ever to be proud of their Society. The toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society of Rhodesia" was proposed by Colonel Nicholson in a felicitous speech and replied to by the Chairman, who congratulated the members on having successfully fought the recent Pharmacy Bill. They did not want in Rhodesia, he said, old statutes passed years ago at the Cape. What they wanted was medical legislation brought up to the most recent and highest standard. Save in special cases doctors should not dispense medicines—that was the work of chemists; and in almost every case chemists in Rhodesia possessed Home qualifications. In his opinion they should be very stringent as to qualifications, and in this British Colony only British diplomas should be allowed. He hoped further that the attention of the Government would be called to the sale of patent medicines and the laws relating to them looked into. A joint committee of doctors and chemists, he suggested, should draft the new Pharmacy Bill. Mr. O. F. Conrath (Conrath & Duncan) proposed "The Medical Profession," to which Dr. E. A. Strong replied, congratulating the Society on their consolidation, and promising on behalf of his profession throughout Rhodesia their serious attention and assistance on the points they were bringing before the Legislative Council. He mentioned that his fellow medical men did not altogether regret the premature death of the Pharmacy Ordinance, and looked forward to its successor with the hope that it would be broader and more compre-

hensive in detail, and deal more with the future requirements of Rhodesia. He recalled as a singular fact that three of the four South African Colonies were engaged at one and the same time in the task of medical reform. The Cape, Natal, and Rhodesia had all Medical Bills in hand. Mr. C. Cattell (Lennon, Limited) proposed "The Visitors," which was responded to by Mr. E. St. M. Hutchinson and Dr. Hans Sauer, both members of the Legislative Council. These gentlemen said they would support any legislation which would make for the proper qualification of chemists.

Colonial and Foreign News.

PHARMACISTS AND ARMY SERVICE.—A German Imperial Cabinet Order now permits a pharmacist wishing to do his one year of military duty as an army apotheker to serve six months "with the weapon"—i.e. in the ranks—and the other six months in a military pharmacy, after the State examination is passed. This is the same as for the army doctors. The former regulations still remain in force, and an apotheker may do his one year of soldiering in three different ways: (1) In the ranks; (2) the whole time in a military pharmacy; or (3) half-and-half according to the new regulation.

AMERICAN PEPPERMINT PROSPECTS.—The *American Agriculturist*, in the course of an article on "The Future of Peppermint-growing," says that the situation in Michigan, Indiana, and New York continues one of great uncertainty, and the tendency is towards a further decrease in acreage. In Wayne County, N.Y., long famous for its production, farmers are working out of peppermint, some of them giving more attention to sugar-beets as a money crop. In Michigan, where the bulk of the crop has been produced in recent years, this same tendency is in evidence. In some of the leading sections the acreage is only a half or less what it was four or five years ago, and in portions of Northern Indiana it is practically abandoned. Yet the annual production is in excess of home requirements, the surplus seeking foreign markets. There it comes into direct competition with the cheap product of Japan, and the world's price seems to be permanently lowered since this new competition became so pronounced. The exports, meanwhile, are considerable, yet have declined in value compared with three years ago, as shown in the subjoined table:—

Year ended		Lbs.	Value
June 30,			\$
1899	...	117,462	118,227
1898	...	143,345	180,811
1897	...	162,492	257,484
1896	...	85,290	174,810
1895	...	87,633	194,616
1894	...	80,225	209,722
1893	...	99,629	267,422
1892	...	54,987	156,418
1891	...	45,321	120,831

CANADIAN TRADE.—The High Commissioner for Canada has sent us a report on the trade and commerce of Canada for September, from which we take certain particulars of interest to the drug-trade. During the month named drugs and medicines were imported to the value of \$133,449, against \$129,509 in September, 1898. For the three months ended September 30 the imports of these were \$404,108, against \$448,642 in the corresponding three months of last year. The quantities of soap imported in October was \$40,013, against \$27,472, and in the three months ended September 30, 1899, \$111,071, against \$94,990 in the corresponding period of 1898. These were dutiable goods. In the free list dyes, chemicals, &c., figure among the imports to the extent of \$180,741, against \$157,618 in September, 1898 and \$454,486 in the three months ending with September against \$628,977 for the corresponding period of 1898. Alkali to the value of \$42,355 (41,613 cwt.) was exported from Great Britain to Canada for the three months ending September, against \$53,654 (41,173 cwt.) for the same period of 1898, thus showing a decrease in value and an increase in quantity.

War Notes.

MESSRS. BRUNNER, MOND & CO. (LIMITED), Northwich, have given 500*l.* to the South African fund of Northwich.

FIELD-HOSPITAL CAPTURED.—The War Office reports, by despatch received on December 5, that at the battle of Enslin Commandant Albrecht's waggon, perfect in pharmacy and surgery arrangements, was captured by the British forces.

WAR-SUPPLIES.—Among the items which the War Office regulations require to be kept available at the seat of war on the basis of four months' supplies are 6,000 lbs. of carbolic-acid powder, 20 tons of chloride of lime, 10,000 gals. of Izal, and 10 tons of McDougall's disinfecting-powder.

MAFEBING CHEMISTS have cautioned their children not to run after the shells which come into the town from the besiegers, but to wait until they have rested a while, as one might explode—a circumstance which sometimes happens, they say. So a South African subscriber assures us in a letter received this week.

BEEF-TEA FOR THE WOUNDED.—Messrs. Armour & Co., of London and Chicago, have supplied a quantity of their extract of beef—sufficient to make at least 6,000 cups of bouillon or beef-tea—as a donation towards the medical equipment of the hospital-steamship *Princess of Wales*. The firm have also supplied a similar quantity of extract of beef to the *Maine*.

BULLET-WOUNDS.—The *Lancet* gives an illustrated article on the effects on the wounded of the bullets used in modern warfare. The illustrations show the terrible wounds inflicted by the "Mark IV." and Dum-Dum bullets, and also show that the old Martini-Henry bullet made a much larger and more jagged wound than the small track made by the "Mark II." bullets which our forces are using in South Africa, or the Mauser bullet which the Boers are using.

THE *Grocer* objects to a paragraph in our Johannesburg correspondent's letter in which, writing from Durban, the Johannesburg chemists are described as getting fat and brown. Our contemporary describes them as timid chemists, and says it has always "had a latent belief that a grocer was more of a man than a chemist," and tells of a grocer serving in the Mounted Infantry who fired twenty-four shots upon the Boers after having his leg shattered and twisted.

THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT.—From the *Detroit Free Press* we learn that there are two members of the staff of the Canadian branch of Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. who have gone with the Special Service Corps to the Transvaal. The firm write that they will continue the two men on their salary-roll at half-pay during the period of enlistment, and at the end of six months will reinstate them in their former positions. The firm also sent \$100 worth of their antiseptic preparations to be added to the medical stores of the Canadian contingent.

MR. J. YOUNG, chemist, Torquay, has taken a very active interest in forwarding comforts to the Devonshire Regiment now in South Africa, and last week, we observe, he despatched a box of plum-puddings to the front. Mrs. Young makes the puddings. He has sent out altogether 200 lbs. of puddings, 200 lbs. of tobacco, 5,000 cigarettes, 1,000 pairs of boot-laces, clothing, pipes, cigars, &c. In the window of his pharmacy Mr. Young has a tambourine for collecting money for these comforts, and last week 8*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* was so collected. On Monday of this week a further 3*l.* was obtained.

MR. WALTER O. HERALD, an English chemist and druggist, who has been in Johannesburg for some time, has written an interesting letter to his mother, which was printed by the Manchester papers last week. The letter is dated the Central Gaol, Pietermaritzburg, November 2. The following are the passages of the letter which interest the trade:—

On September 29, Mr. Herald writes, at half-an-hour's notice, I got my outfit (commandeered it, of course), and left Johannesburg with the St. John Ambulance as assistant to Dr. Walrond Shaw. We went by train to Standerton, which took us two days, stayed there a couple of days, during which time I was ordered to commandeer a chemist's shop and take what things would be

necessary for the field. I forgot to state that I was engaged [by the Boers] on the strict understanding that I could speak Dutch and ride well (couldn't do either, but that didn't worry me).

Mr. Herald then describes the trek down to Elandslaagte, and the engagement there. He proceeds:—"For two hours the firing was incessant, artillery and rifles going the whole time, and in the middle of it we had our photographs taken with the shells bursting all about. After about two hours the Boers began to give way, and retreated right on the hospital, and whilst I was dressing my first wounded man the famous Lancer charge took place within six yards from us. Luckily we came through all right, and then our serious work commenced, and I shall never forget the next few days. It was raining and pitch dark, and we were on the battlefield all night bringing in wounded, soaking wet, all of us; all the next day we kept on, nothing to eat or drink, far into the next night, when we lay down in our wet clothes, thoroughly tired out. After two days all the wounded were sent on to Ladysmith, where we followed, and had our hospital in the Dutch church. . . . After a few days there we left for Maritzburg, where we were quartered in the gaol. We have just received orders to leave to-day for Durban, then by mau-of-war to Simon's Bay, near Cape Town, so by the time this campaign is over I shall have seen something of Africa. I am wearing khaki riding-suit with top boots, have a lovely pointed beard, and my skin is almost black.

Mr. Herald does not state how he was transferred from the Boer side (for whom he was acting) to the British.

Scientific Progress.

A New Pharmacological Journal.—We have received the first issue of the *Bulletin des Sciences Pharmacologiques*, a Parisian journal, edited by a committee of pharmacists and physicians. It is intended to deal with pure and applied scientific work in all branches which bear on pharmacy, and the first issue provides a well-assorted mixture of biological, therapeutic, chemical, and pharmacological papers.

The Electrolytic Production of Chloroform.—Zambelletti's method for the electrolytic production of chloroform consists of decomposing a 20-per-cent. solution of sodium chloride by the current and adding acetone. The free chlorine generated reacts with the acetone, forming trichloroacetone, which is decomposed by the free caustic alkali formed, according to the equation $\text{CH}_3\text{CO}\cdot\text{CCl}_3 + \text{NaOH} = \text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2\text{Na} + \text{CHCl}_3$.—*Pharm. Zeitung*, November 22, 1899.

Action of Alcohols on Digestion.—An interesting and somewhat important paper on the action of various bodies containing the hydroxy group on peptic and pancreatic digestion of albuminoids appears in the current issue of the *Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie*. In it Dr. Laborde throws considerable light on several questions. He points out that the rapidity of solution of the albumen used in the experiments with pepsin has been accepted as the criterion of the rapidity of digestive action, whereas with others the quantity of albumoses and peptones formed in a given time has been the basis of valuation. There is no doubt that the latter is the more correct method of solving the problem, and Dr. Laborde's results are based on quantitative determinations of the albumoses and peptones actually formed. He finds that isobutyl alcohol, glycerin, and malic acid (which is a hydroxy acid) in small quantity, render digestion with pepsin more active; methyl alcohol increases the activity very slightly; but ethyl alcohol, propyl alcohol, lactic and tartaric acids (both hydroxy acids), mannite, and glucose retard the action somewhat. In the case of pancreatic digestion, methyl and isobutyl alcohols, glycerin and glucose promote the action of the ferment, but ethyl and propyl alcohols, lactic, malic, and tartaric acids, and mannite retard it.

Floral Colours.—The red pigment of several kinds of berries was formerly regarded as a blue pigment reddened by acid. Berzelius, in 1837, found this was not so with some berries and leaves he examined. Julius Wiesner, in 1862 and 1872, after a series of experiments, came to a conclusion contrary to Berzelius, that the original and actual colour of anthrocyan was blue, not red. To settle the dispute P. Q. Keegan made a research this year, and concludes that there are different stages in the development of the floral pigment. In the lower stages the natural colour is red, whatever the chromogen may be, and so far Berzelius was right. In the higher stages, however, the natural colour of anthrocyan is blue, or, at least, with some chromogens becomes capable of forming blue compounds or lakes with alkalies and certain metallic salts. This investigation also shows that chromogenes exist which, unless under very exceptional conditions and circumstances, are incapable of producing a blue pigment, and these in all stages naturally develop into a red, the brilliancy of which, when contrasted with that of a blue accidentally obtained in an allied species, attests its real, original and proper character.—*Nature*, No. 1,570, vol. 61.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL MEETING.

THE meeting on Wednesday was the "anti-cyclone" of the November meeting, the proceedings being of quite a formal nature. There is a probability that the Society will invite the co-operation of the Irish Society on the company question. The Law and Parliamentary Committee had nothing further to make public as to the steps they were taking in the matter, but the President wished it to be understood that they had agreed upon a certain course, and were not adopting a waiting policy. A big pile of correspondence from local Associations and others on the same question was referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee for consideration. Grants amounting to 145*l.* were made from the Benevolent Fund to distressed persons, and donations announced from Mr. T. R. Williams, Mr. Stamp, and the Junior Chemists' Ball.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on December 6. The following were present:—The President (Mr. W. Martindale), Vice-President (Mr. Newsholme), Treasurer (Mr. Atkins), and Messrs. Allen, Bateson, Carteighe, Corder, Cross, Glyn-Jones, Harrington, Harrison, Hills, Johnston, Park, Savory, Southall, Storrar, Symes, Warren, and Young.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and, arising out of them,

Dr. SYMES asked if, as the Companies Bill affected Ireland equally with Great Britain, it was the intention of the Council to invite the co-operation of the Irish Society as to the measures to be taken.

The PRESIDENT said he thought they would most probably have to do so on account of the present state of affairs.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS.

Two members of the Society were elected, and two persons, having paid the fine and made the necessary declaration, had their names restored to the register.

DEATH.

The PRESIDENT said he was sorry to have to announce the death of one of their loyal members—Mr. Thomas Hodsoll, of Sturt Street, Islington. Mr. Hodsoll was for many years divisional secretary for the Hoxton division of Shoreditch, and a frequent attendant at the meetings of the Society.

The SECRETARY then announced that the Privy Council had signified their approval of the examiners appointed at the last meeting.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee was then read. It showed balance on the

	£	s.	d.
General Fund Account	175	11	4
Benevolent Fund Account	960	15	5
Donation Account	753	11	5
Orphan Fund Account	237	6	9

and submitted for payment the sum of 1,515*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*, made up of the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
Journal	737	2	6
Salaries	54	3	4
Sundries	119	8	5
Rates	150	2	0
Law expenses	54	6	0
Current expenses	400	0	0

The PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, said there was only a small balance in hand, but they would have a certain amount coming in from examination-fees which would meet all demands. Their finances were in a somewhat better condition than last year. They had not had to

get a loan from the bank, and he hoped that at the end of the year they would have a substantial balance in hand.

Appointments of superintendents and deputy-superintendents of written examinations were then made, the superintendents being the local secretaries of the various centres, with but few changes.

BENEVOLENCE.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. T. R. Williams, the representative of a well known wholesale house, had been good enough to interest himself in the Benevolent Fund, and had collected 4*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* as the result of a 6*d.* collection made among chemists north of the Thames with whom he came in contact. (Hear, hear.) He (the President) hoped this example would be followed by others coming into association with registered persons.

The committee of the Junior Chemists' Ball forwarded 10*l.* 10*s.*

Mr. Stamp (Hampstead) also sent 12*l.*, which he had collected for the fund. (Hear, hear.)

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was then considered in committee, after which

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that grants—three of 20*l.*, three of 13*l.*, three of 12*l.*, and one of 10*l.*—be made. He mentioned that one of the grants was to an old gentleman, and was made conditional on his friends helping as well. One application was deferred, and another was not entertained.

The PRESIDENT said it was satisfactory to be able to make these grants in view of the wintry weather that was near at hand.

The report was adopted.

LIBRARY AND HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The report of this committee was then read. The curator reported the attendance and donations to the museum. The librarian reported on the attendance, circulation of the books, and donations to the library. Letters of thanks were directed to be sent to the respective donors. The President was authorised to arrange such additions to the shelving of the library as were required. The committee also recommended the adoption of the sub-committee's report on the modifications of the scholarship regulations which would be necessary after August, 1900. Some slight alterations were made. The examination for the Jacob Bell scholarships is to take place on the third Tuesday in June in Edinburgh and London, and that for the Manchester scholarship on the same day in Manchester; and candidates sitting for the Manchester scholarship will be allowed, if they wish it, to take the Jacob Bell scholarship paper on the same day in Manchester. The word "conditions" was substituted for the word "safeguards" in a part of the regulations which now reads:—"The examination is wholly in writing, and is conducted under such conditions as the Council may from time to time deem expedient."

Professor Ladenburg acknowledged the receipt of the Hanbury medal; and, in reply to a letter from Dr. Planchon in reference to an International Pharmaceutical Congress to be held in Paris next year, the Secretary was directed to inquire if this Congress was the successor of the International Conference which was held in Brussels in 1897.

Mr. GLYN-JONES asked whether the committee had considered the advisability of supplying the members of the Council with printed copies of committee-reports? It was pointed out to him when he made the suggestion that as the committees usually met the night before the Council-meeting it was not practicable to supply printed copies; but this meeting, he noticed, took place some time before.

The PRESIDENT said, as reported last month, the committee were not able to recommend that the reports be printed and circulated.

Mr. CARTEIGHE said Mr. Glyn-Jones seemed to forget that last month there was a paragraph in the report devoted to the subject.

Mr. GLYN-JONES thought that his not having noticed it was another reason why the reports should be printed and brought more prominently to their notice.

The report was adopted.

The Treasurer was authorised to pay at Christmas the moiety of the annuities which would accrue to the four persons to be elected annuitants next week.

Some appointments of local secretaries and assistants were

then made, the PRESIDENT paying a tribute to the work which Mr. Strachan, the former local secretary for Aberdeen, had done for the Society.

LETTERS.

Letters of thanks were received from the examiners and local officers who were appointed at the last meeting.

The Secretary of the ninth International Pharmaceutical Congress had written in reference to the Congress, but an official communication is to be addressed to the Society at an early date. The Treasurer of the Pelletier-Caventou memorial-fund wrote, thanking the Councillors for their donation to the fund.

CARBOLIC ACID.

The PRESIDENT, in answer to Mr. Storrar, said the Society had had no communication from the Privy Council about carbolic acid. As mentioned last month, he (the President) had been down to the Privy Council offices, and had been told that the Council were in communication with the Agricultural Department, and were awaiting their reply.

Mr. BATESON wanted to know if they could not bring some pressure to bear upon the Privy Council.

The PRESIDENT said he thought the deaths that were occurring daily were a sufficient pressure; it was nevertheless very peculiar that they did not act more promptly.

A batch of communications from sixteen local Associations in reference to

COMPANY-TRADING,

the substance of which, the PRESIDENT said, had already been made public in the pharmaceutical press, had been received, and the Secretary of the Federation had sent a mass of correspondence, which he (the President) had not had time to read. The Secretary of the Federation had, however, prepared an epitome of the communications sent, from which it appeared that seventy-five towns were represented, and of the resolutions received fifty were in favour of protecting the titles and practice of pharmacy, eleven mentioned the title only, sixteen were in favour of qualified directors, and four for a qualified managing director. [A fuller analysis of the Federation resolutions is given on page 955]

Mr. HILLS wanted to know whether they had any means of finding out how many of these societies or persons were in favour of the clause which the Law and Parliamentary Committee drafted, absolutely prohibiting company-pharmacy. A large number of communications, he noticed, merely mentioned that companies of unqualified persons were objected to.

The PRESIDENT said they had no further information, and, in proposing that the various letters and resolutions be referred to the Law and Parliamentary Committee for consideration, said he would like to add that the committee had a very difficult task before them, and that the views of the members of the Society would afford them valuable assistance in coming to any decision. He was glad that the local Associations were manifesting such interest in the matter and sending them the resolutions come to as the result of their deliberations. He would remind them, however, that it was far easier to draft resolutions than to act upon them. He would also like to say that the Law and Parliamentary Committee were not prepared to report the result of their deliberations. A certain course had been agreed upon, which it was not advisable to make public. He said this because he wanted their members to understand they had no desire to shirk the question, and the members need not have the slightest ground for suspicion that they had pledged themselves to a policy of chronic waiting. It was necessary for the members to repose a certain amount of confidence in the Council, and, if he might borrow a military simile, it was that they were engaged in the very delicate work of directing a reconnaissance, and that he, as President, was in the position of general directing those deliberations.

Dr. SYMES remarked upon the fact that two of the Associations had called attention to the question of the dispensing of poisons and the compulsory adoption of the poison regulations in dispensaries.

The PRESIDENT said that the whole of the correspondence would be considered by the Law and Parliamentary Committee.

British Pharmaceutical Conference.

ON Wednesday afternoon, December 6, a meeting of the representatives of the drug-trade in London was held in the council-chamber of the Pharmaceutical Society, to consider what should be done for the entertainment of the British Pharmaceutical Conference next year.

On the motion of Mr. M. Carteighe the chair was taken by Mr. W. Martindale. He immediately called upon Mr. Crackrell, one of the Hon. Local Secretaries, to read the minutes of the preliminary meeting. Thereafter Mr. W. Warren, the other Local Secretary, read letters of apology, the first of which was from Mr. Elias Bremridge, who has just entered on his 90th year, yet wishes to participate in the entertainment of the Conference members. Letters were also read from Messrs. W. C. Allen, F. Harwood Lescher, A. W. Gerrard, H. Collier, Charles Umney, T. H. W. Idris, and others, each of them offering donations to the entertainment fund, and Mr. Idris suggesting a visit to his company's aerated-water factory, for which he would provide carriages and a luncheon. Mr. Warren added that he had his eye on the Hotel Russell as headquarters.

Mr. Matthews, Hon. Treasurer, also reported that the promises of subscriptions, so far, amounted to about 30l.; but there had been no serious attempt to get in money, and the committee had no fear on that score.

Some conversation then took place regarding the date of the meeting, and it was intimated that it would be held in the Pharmaceutical Society's house, and, in order that the whole house may be placed at the disposal of the members, it was stated that it would be necessary that the meeting should be held after the School of Pharmacy session is over, and after the July examinations have finished. Therefore Monday, July 23, would be a suitable day, and would not clash with other meetings, such as the International Pharmaceutical Congress in Paris and the meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry. It was, therefore, resolved to recommend that to the Executive of the Conference.

It was further resolved that those present should form the General Local Committee, with power to add to their number, whereupon Mr. Naylor suggested the desirability of all gentlemen whose names went upon this list, ensuring that they were also members of the Pharmaceutical Conference.

The following are the names of those present, and of the gentlemen who sent in letters, who will form the nucleus of the General Committee:—

W. Martindale	Edmund White
John Harrington	A. J. Phillips
George S. Taylor	W. C. Allen
Chas. B. Allen	Geo. J. Knight
W. S. Glyn-Jones	P. C. Baker
J. C. Hyslop	Peter MacEwan
J. S. Ward	W. Arkinstall
Henry G. Greenish	T. H. W. Idris
John C. Umney	W. P. Robinson
E. M. Holmes	D. Lloyd Howard
Leo Atkinson	F. Ransom
A. W. Hanson	R. H. Parker
A. J. Bullen Cooper	W. F. Gulliver
Jno. H. Mathews	Walter Hills
J. Bourdas	Langford Moore
F. Bascombe	F. Goldby
J. W. Bowen	E. A. Webb
E. N. Butt	R. A. Robinson
John Attfield	A. Wigginton
M. Carteighe	Theo. Nicholl
Herbert Cracknell	Wm. Harvey
Wm. Warren	C. Hanbury
W. A. H. Naylor	

This concluded the public business, but we understand that subsequently the committee appointed a small Executive Committee, and Mr. Martindale was elected Chairman of the General Committee, and Mr. J. F. Harrington Vice-Chairman.

BRAZILIAN TARIFF.—The Board of Trade have received information from her Majesty's Minister at Rio de Janeiro that a revised tariff for Brazil will come into force on January 1 next.

General Medical Council.

OUR report left off last week at the conclusion of Wednesday's proceedings. On Thursday, November 30, the Council got seriously into the task of

PURGING THE REGISTER.

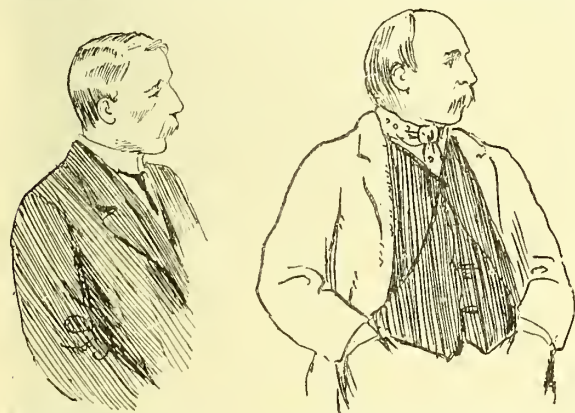
First, however, they performed some acts of mercy. Dr. Stewart, found guilty at the last session of "covering," was allowed to depart in peace, as he had dismissed the unqualified assistant.

Mr. Kershaw, the dentist who was arraigned before the Council last session for employing an unregistered assistant, was adjudged not guilty of infamous conduct, the assistant having been dismissed.

The name of Henry Louis Goodman, of Ludgate Hill, was erased from the Dentists Register. He is now undergoing a term of eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour for obtaining money by false pretences in connection with the promotion of a company.

A FLIMSY "COVERING" CASE.

The case of Richard Thomas Williams, of Cwmavon, Port Talbot, Glamorganshire, registered as Lic. R. Coll. Phys. Edin., 1889, Lic. R. Coll. Surg. Edin., 1889, Lic. Fac. Phys. Surg., Glasg., 1889, was one of the usual charges of "covering," but very thinly substantiated; a small army of witnesses and others interested appeared, however, and the case



DR. HERBERT POWELL.

THE COPPER-FURNACE MAN.

"Did Dr. Powell give you anything when you went to him?"
"Naw; I got nowt."

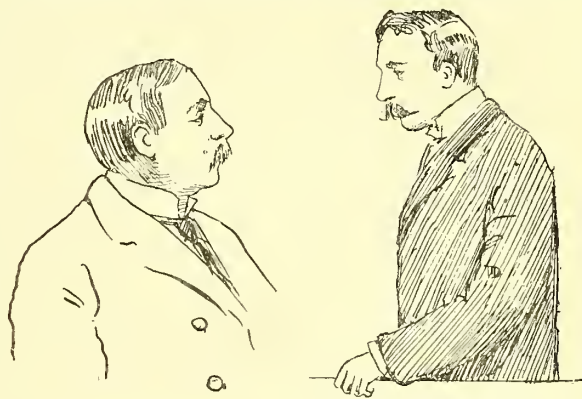
occupied a considerable time on both Thursday and Friday (December 1). Although the unqualified assistant complained of had been dismissed, this did not check interest, nor was the offer of the complainant's counsel to withdraw the prosecution, since the cause of offence had been removed, accepted. Dr. Williams engaged an unqualified assistant named Davies, who, amongst other things, signed certificates "J. C. Davies *pro* R. T. Williams." A little piquancy was imparted into the case by the fact that, owing to the difficulty of getting witnesses against Dr. Williams, who was very popular, a detective from Cardiff had been employed to dog Mr. Davies's steps, and he appeared to answer any questions. The good man had, however, little to add. He had gone, a perfect stranger, for one day, had followed Davies about, and had two or three instances to record, such as—

Saw Mr. Davies go into Mrs. Jones's house, where he stopped two minutes. I knocked at the door and asked if Dr. Davies had been there. "Yes," was the reply; "he is attending me, or my husband, or the baby," as the case might be. The people called him "Dr. Davies."

Little fresh information, though some amusement, was extracted from the honest copper-furnace man—another Davies—the one witness who had been induced to appear to support the case of Dr. Powell, the complainant. Dr. Powell admitted that his partner, Dr. Roberts, was not on speaking terms with Dr. Williams; also that he knew that the door-plate on the house where Davies had rooms (which had been

adduced as one of the accusation) had been left on from the time that Dr. Williams occupied the house.

The evidence for the defence showed that Mr. Davies had only his final to pass. He had been engaged in the first

EX-DETECTIVE-SERGEANT
ONLEY.Mr. Davies tries to recollect
his age.

instance to assist in the surgery under Dr. Williams, and had given no certificates except by Dr. Williams's orders. The public feeling in the district was so much in sympathy with Dr. Williams (who is the doctor for a friendly society) that a public meeting of 400 men had been held in Cwmavon to affirm emphatically that Mr. Davies was not recognised as a fully qualified man, and to express their entire satisfaction with the care and diligence that Dr. Williams had shown.

Dr. Williams was too ill to appear before the Council, but Mr. Davies was put into the box and examined; but he was apparently so scared by Dr. Powell's heckling that he could say very little, and had considerable difficulty in stating his age when asked. Mr. Banks, with some tact, came to the rescue and cleared up the points.

The Council, after a very few minutes' consideration *in camera*, came to the conclusion that the case was not proved, and dismissed it without even a caution.

Mr. Joyce wants to know where he is to
get evidence as to his conduct.

"MOST IMPROPER CONDUCT."

Mr. William Matthews Joyce, of Small Heath, Birmingham, registered with the Scotch triple qualification, was asked to explain how he came to be convicted at Warwick Borough Sessions, on July 10 last, of being drunk and disorderly, for which he was imprisoned for fourteen days; and also at Warwick Court House on November 13, of assaulting and beating one Ellen Simpson, for which he was fined 2*l.* with 11*s.* costs. Mr. Joyce, having objected at the outset that he had had too short notice, and had only "happened" to get the Council's letter, volubly assured the Council that at the time of the first case he was away on important business in Ireland, and had no time to communicate with his solicitor, otherwise it would have been a matter of a guinea and costs. The whole thing was nothing but a family quarrel, and he never was drunk at all. The second case was explained in an equally airy fashion, and after a brief consultation *in camera*, the President said with much solemnity that the Council considered his conduct most improper, and entirely unworthy of a professional man, but they were disposed to take a merciful view, and adjourned the case until May next, when he would have to produce evidence that his conduct during the six months had been such as a professional man ought to show. Mr. Joyce inquired where he was to

get his witnesses, adding that he was about to take a fresh practice; but out of this difficulty the President could not assist him, and he reluctantly withdrew, evidently aggrieved by his curt dismissal.

The name of Frederick William Kirkham, of London Street, Chertsey, registered Lic. R. Coll. Surg. Edin., 1882, and Lic. R. Coll. Phys. Edin., 1889, convicted in October at the Central Criminal Court on several indictments charging him with fraud, was struck off the register without discussion.

IS AN APOTHECARY A PHYSICIAN?

Sir Edward Clarke says he is, and a surgeon if he has been registered since 1886; and Mr. Upton, the Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, wrote asking the Council to arrange a test-case, provision being made for costs. In moving that the communication should be referred to committee, Mr. Brudenell Carter launched into an edifying etymological discourse dealing with the derivation, meaning, and use of the word "physician" from the earliest times. Many medical men—himself among them—had no other title than the L.S.A., and must call themselves something. They could not call themselves apothecaries, since that word was archaic and had no meaning at the present day. The word "physician" was of great antiquity, and from time immemorial had meant a practitioner of the healing art, without the smallest reference to his qualifications or to the body which conferred them. Dr. Murray, the most eminent authority on these matters, told him that it was introduced into England from Norman-French in the thirteenth century, or earlier, probably coming over with the Conqueror and superseding, as more fashionable, the old English word "leech," of which it became the equivalent. Some writers had desired to associate the physician with the philosopher; while to the ignorant Italian peasants of the Dark Ages he was one who knew something of the stars, of herbs, and so on, and they thought he must therefore be also a medicus, just as the ignorant English of to-day called every seller of drugs a chemist.

Sir J. Batty Tuke seconded the motion simply because the question had to be settled somehow or other.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Horsley, not disapproving of the correspondence going to committee, but disapproving of binding the Council to take legal proceedings, which Mr. Carter's motion implied. Dr. Bruce seconded the amendment. There was a lot of speaking, but when the matter came to the vote there were twenty-one for Mr. Horsley's amendment and only five for Mr. Carter's motion. When Mr. Horsley's amendment was put as a substantive motion Mr. Carter tried to get his motion in in another way, but was again defeated.

THE COUNCIL'S PENAL POWERS.

The President brought up a report of the steps he had taken to have section 29 of the Medical Act of 1858 amended so as to secure increased powers for penal and disciplinary purposes. He explained that the subject was brought to the front by the notorious case of an M.D. who, after being struck off the register, continued to practise on his title; the offence of which he was convicted was so serious that it was felt the time had come when the Council should approach the different medical authorities with a view to their obtaining powers to remove members from their lists. The general idea of the two clauses which had been first prepared to meet the case was that if a person was struck off the register by the Council, by virtue of that his name should disappear from the list of the body or bodies to which he belonged, in a sort of automatic way. This, however, was considered by several medical authorities as too stringent, as they had already the power by their own charters to remove names from their lists, and felt there was no need for the Council to interfere. The Universities considered that they alone should be able to exercise this power over their members, and that their graduates should not be placed under such powers of the Council as was asked. This view was pressed with so much force that it was felt useless to proceed with the clauses in the form originally drafted, and the matter was again referred to Mr. Muir Mackenzie. He had drafted clauses accordingly with reference to those bodies which had not at present the power of erasure, giving them that power. Another important

point included in the clause was that medical authorities having the power to remove their licentiates or graduates from their lists, or to suspend them, should also have the power to restore them, and also that the Medical Council itself should have power by statute to restore the names and qualifications of persons removed from its register. The Council at present assumed the right by common law, but had no statutory power. If these clauses became law, each medical authority in the United Kingdom would have power to remove from its lists the names of persons removed from the medical register, or to suspend the use of its diplomas.

After congratulations to the President, and an animated but complicated little debate, the amended draft clauses were approved, and the President was requested to forward them to the Lord President of the Privy Council, with the desire that the Government would support or approve a Bill for passing them into law.

MEDICAL RECIPROCITY.

The report of the Executive Committee on the subject of reciprocity of medical practice in relation to foreign countries included an opinion and statement drawn up by Mr. Muir Mackenzie, reviewing the present position of things as well as suggesting lines of advance. Under the Medical Acts a person is not a legally-qualified medical practitioner unless he possesses a diploma granted after passing the prescribed qualifying examination, and is also registered in the medical register, there being stringent disabilities imposed on those who, even if possessed of qualifying diplomas, are not registered. A foreign practitioner who has not obtained registration is not recognised by the law, unless he merely acts as medical officer of a hospital established solely for foreigners. Part 2, however, of the Act of 1886 gives the General Medical Council power, under an Order in Council, to recognise a medical practitioner of any foreign country which in its turn affords corresponding rights to registered medical practitioners of the United Kingdom by placing him on the foreign list of the register, and thereby conferring on him all the privileges possessed by those holding diplomas from British qualifying bodies. The operation of this part of the Act has been extended to most of the colonies, and seventy colonial practitioners have been entered in the colonial list, but no foreign country has been yet included, and the portion of the committee's report round which the debate centred was a proposal to seek for its application to Italy—almost the only European country it can be applied to, as other nations are strictly protectionist in matters medical.

Sir Dyce Duckworth definitely moved that reciprocity should be instituted with Italy, and Dr. Heron Watson seconded; whereupon Dr. McVail began an impassioned debate, which Mr. Horsley continued, and so the "to" and "for" went on, when happily Sunday intervened, or at least the Saturday session came to an end.

On resuming business on Monday the aspect of affairs was changed by Mr. Tomes bringing forward the following amendment, which was seconded by Sir C. Nixon:—

That the Privy Council be requested to procure through her Majesty's Minister at Rome information upon the following points:—(1) Whether any change in the regulations affecting foreign medical practice in Italy has been made since their communication of 1892; (2) whether any such change is at present in contemplation by the Italian Government, in order that the General Medical Council may be enabled to decide whether it is or is not expedient that certain provisions of the Medical Act of 1886 should be made applicable to the kingdom of Italy.

Sir Dyce Duckworth withdrew his motion in favour of this amendment, which was carried.

REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

We mentioned in our issue of November 25, page 867, that the Royal College of Surgeons of England objected to the Council's new regulations that medical students should not be registered as such unless their studies have commenced at an institution approved by the Council. The College's objection now came before the Council for consideration. This is not the first time that the Royal College and the Council have come into collision, and the feelings of *esprit de corps* on both sides bade fair to culminate on Monday in a crisis—an appeal to the Privy Council and an assertion of

their rights by law. The thunder-cloud blew over, however, for this session at all events. Sir Wm. Thomson, who first addressed the Council on the rebellion manifested, referred to it with exceeding sorrow. If the College succeeded in supporting the declaration, they (the Council) had no authority; their very title expressed their right to supervise education, and if at the very threshold they were challenged by the leading corporate bodies, they must not wait till they were defied by all the other Colleges and Universities, but reassert their authority. Sir William moved, and Dr. Bruce seconded, that the Registrar be directed to inform the Colleges that the Medical Council adhered to its resolution.

Dr. Macalister said that the effect of such a resolution would be very small. On January 1, 1900, a number of students would apply for registration; perhaps one-tenth would come from the Royal Colleges, and these, he suggested, should be refused. They would go back and make it unpleasant for the Colleges, but the students would eventually go elsewhere, and no harm would be done to them in the end.

Dr. McVail asked what was to hinder the Colleges from giving diplomas without registration? (A Voice: "Nothing.") Then every other College would follow and set the Council at defiance and make their deliberations a farce. He declined to take that view. He did not think the College meant to set the Council at defiance, and suggested that the College should be asked to reconsider the matter.

Mr. Bryant, representing the Royal College of Physicians, replied with spirit, assuring the Council that they were not disposed to enter into opposition, but they had their own responsibilities to fulfil. There was too much disposition on the Council's part to throw contempt on the Colleges' educational institutions; they were not all Board schools, and those they had were grand ones. Sir Dyce Duckworth, representing the College of Surgeons, declared that the reply of the Colleges was simply an affirmation of fact. An appeal to the Privy Council would be only justifiable where the curricula was shown to be inefficient, and he asserted that the Royal Colleges resented interference with the management of their own affairs, as any other corporate body would do.

Mr. Brudenell Carter pacifically suggested that the Colleges should not stand on the letter of their rights, and that it would be graceful of them to yield.

Sir C. Nixon was more belligerent, and urged, amid "hear, hears," that it was a test-case.

Dr. Heron Watson proclaimed, amid solemn silence, that the hands of the clock would be turned back fifteen years, and that all the efforts of the Council on behalf of medical education would be lost. They did not want the chemistry of a laboratory or a drug-store for medical men.

Finally an amendment was carried, with but one dissenter, that the President should communicate to the Royal Colleges the decision of the Council to adhere to their resolution, and invite them to reconsider the matter, as it had an important bearing on the standard of study in the country at large.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS.

The report of the Education Committee with regard to raising the standard of preliminary education (stating that the experts saw no possibility of enforcing the substitution of the higher examinations) was presented by Sir J. Tuke on Monday. Sir R. Thorne protested that the elaborate opinion embodied in the fifty-five pages of the report was based on individual reports which had never been before the Council, and that the matter was settled by outsiders without the Council knowing the grounds on which the conclusions were arrived at. Dr. Leech, Dr. Church, and Mr. Horsley also criticised the committee's report.

On the resumption of the debate on Tuesday Sir R. Thorne moved, as an amendment, that the Education Committee be requested to obtain from the experts a report setting out in full their reasons for the conclusions they had arrived at, and that the sum of 100% be placed at their disposal for that purpose. Dr. Reid seconded; and the amendment having been accepted by the committee in lieu of their original resolution, it seemed about to be peacefully passed when a smart little passage of arms arose as to the application of the 100%. The President thought the motion should be so framed as to enable the committee to ask the opinion of

experts on any matter that might crop up in the course of the inquiry, and not to limit them to "that purpose." But this latter was exactly what Sir R. Thorne, backed by Dr. McVail and Mr. Horsley, wished to do. An amendment, however, was carried by 18 to 6 to omit the last three words of the motion—Sir J. Batty Tuke, Chairman of the committee, being one of the minority.

THE DUBLIN APOTHECARIES' HALL.

The report as to the inspection of examinations of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, was agreed to with verbal alterations desired by Mr. Tichborne. In connection with the subject Mr. Tichborne called on Dr. Athill to apologise for an expression he had made use of with regard to the Dublin body, which he considered a scandalous libel on 500 or 600 citizens; but Dr. Athill maintained his position.

DENTAL PENAL CASES.

In introducing the report of the Executive on the dental penal cases, Mr. Tomes explained that Clause 11 in the new standing order left the Council no option but either to strike off or not to strike off a name. The new clause proposed separating the finding of guilty or not guilty from the infliction of the taking or not taking the name from the register. This separation had been found of great value in medical cases. Seconded by Mr. Bryant, the report was received, and the amended clause adopted as a standing order. It is as follows:—

That the attention of the Council having been called to the practice of advertising by certain dentists, it is hereby resolved—

That the issue of advertisements of an objectionable character, and especially of such as contain either claims of superiority over other practitioners, or depreciation of them, may be easily carried so far as to constitute infamous or disgraceful conduct in a professional respect.

The Council had also before it the case of a chemist-dentist, who had been called upon to answer a charge of unprofessional conduct, but he intimidated by letter to the Council that in future he would confine his advertising to a card. The matter is still *sub judice*.

THE B.P.

Dr. Leech presented the following report by the Pharmacopœia Committee:—

Up to the present date 28,500 copies of the British Pharmacopœia of 1898 have been printed, and of these 27,613 copies have been disposed of; it is therefore evident that a further issue of 3,000 copies should be authorised. The committee note with satisfaction that the expenses incurred in the preparation of the Pharmacopœia have been more than met.

A meeting has been held of the conference between the members of the sub-committee and the representatives of the Pharmaceutical Societies, and on its recommendation a number of debatable points have been referred to experts for further investigation and report.

With a view to the more speedy production of the Indian and Colonial Addendum, the committee have deemed it advisable to discontinue for the present the preparation of the annual reports on the progress of pharmacy.

A detailed report on the Indian and Colonial Addendum has been presented by the Editor. Fifty-three of the seventy British Administrations of India and the colonies have already communicated their views to the Medical Council. The committee express their cordial thanks to those who have thus contributed much valuable assistance, and note with gratification that in many colonies the British Pharmacopœia in its present form has completely satisfied all requirements.

Dr. Leech added that the amount received to meet the expenses was 1,193*l*.

Dr. Macalister, in seconding the adoption of the report, observed that the number of replies had increased beyond fifty-three, and even if the rest of the seventy sent no definite replies it might be taken as a compliment, indicating that the B.P. was already so good that nothing need be added to it. The report was adopted.

The report of the committee for the consideration of the employment of

UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS

was brought in by Mr. Teale, who said they did not see any occasion to interfere. It appeared to be not illegal for an unqualified dispenser to be employed by chemists, providing that a duly-qualified man was on the premises at the time.

Mr. Brown was glad to know that a great many candidates entered for the examinations of the Apothecaries' Society of London, 171 having obtained its certificate in the last two years. It was fair to conclude that a number of these were employed as dispensers in public institutions. The report was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to the Privy Council, as the complaint came from them, and had formed the subject of remarks in Parliament.

THE COMPANIES ACTS AMENDMENT BILL COMMITTEE

passed a clause in the House of Lords affirming the unlawfulness of a company carrying on business as "physician, surgeon, dentist, or midwife," but in view of the fog in which the first of those terms is obscured, it is hoped to be able to introduce the term "medical practitioner."

PROFESSIONAL PARRIAHS.

Sir C. Nixon brought forward a motion—

That in all cases where a practitioner's name has been removed from the register for conduct infamous in a professional respect, such practitioner should be informed that the legal right to practise is forfeited for such period as his name does not appear on the register.

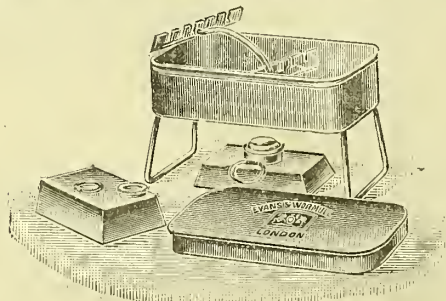
This led to a warm discussion. It seemed to be the general view of the Council that although it might be all very well to tell a man that if he went on practising after his name had been struck off he would stand a poor chance of being restored to the register when the time came, it was quite a different thing to assume the possession of legal power in the matter. Ultimately the motion was withdrawn.

The business had been rattled through at a good pace throughout Tuesday, and concluded in the country where everybody's thoughts are at present centered, by the consideration of a communication from Southern Rhodesia, setting forth objections, which the Council agreed to be valid and important, to the Medical Ordinance which has recently been enacted there, and it is expected that the enactment will be repealed.

Our Town Traveller.

TO RESUME MY TRAVELS,

I looked in at Messrs. Evans & Wormull's, 31 Stamford Street, S.E., and found they were extremely busy with army-contracts. Every available space seemed filled up with instrument-cases bearing the Red Cross, and in reply to my inquiries I was told that for many weeks they had been working at high pressure, but that the pressure was now subsiding. It is satisfactory to be able to state that, although the pressure was so exceptional, the firm were able to meet all demands from the large stock they carry. Looking round for new apparatus, I came across a pistonless hypodermic syringe, which is the invention of an army surgeon. As its name implies, there is no piston, and, as the piston is claimed as the cause of much trouble and frequent delay, the syringe can be very easily rendered aseptic. The hypo-

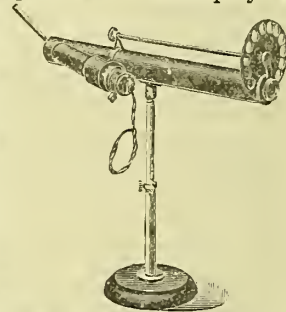


dermic fluid is drawn in by means of the indiarubber end-piece, and injected by the reverse action. Another advantage the syringe possesses is that it is less bulky than ordinary hypodermic syringes, as when out of use it folds up into a very small space and can be carried in the pocket without having to place it in an outer case.

I saw also a very compact aseptic vaccination-case which has been specially constructed to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board. It contains in a space of 5 by 3 by 1 everything necessary for aseptic vaccination. There is a tiny folding steriliser for sterilising the instruments. The little lamp, when charged with about 1 dr. of spirit, boils the water in the steriliser in one minute. The case contains as well, tubes for holding vaccine, tubes and antiseptic tabloids, a tiny case of carbolic soap, adhesive plaster, antiseptic gauze, a blower, vaccinators, and a small bottle of methylated spirit. A smaller case containing fewer apparatus is also made. I noticed a very neat portable steriliser which should be a good addition to ambulance cases. It is made of copper, is nickel-plated, and has a lift-out tray upon which the instruments are laid. The spirit-lamp fits inside when not in use. A larger variety of the same apparatus made in tin is shown in the illustration.

OPTICAL NOVELTIES.

I called in at the Anglo-American Optical Company, 94 Hatton Garden, London, E.C., to make inquiries as to how their school of optics was progressing. In this school especial attention is given to the practical side of spectacle-fitting, and the school has contributed a good many candidates to the examinations of the Spectacle-makers' Company and the British Medical Association, the Manchester class, just concluded, being one of the largest ever held. My attention was called to a new form of retinoscope, called the "Prentice" retinoscope, for which the company are the English agents. The illustration shows that this retinoscope has little resemblance to the retinoscopes ordinarily in use. The advantages claimed with the "Prentice" retinoscope are that no dark-room is required; that the illumination, by means of a little electric lamp inside the tube, is very good; that the distance at which the instrument is used is fixed; and that the mirror is always in focus.



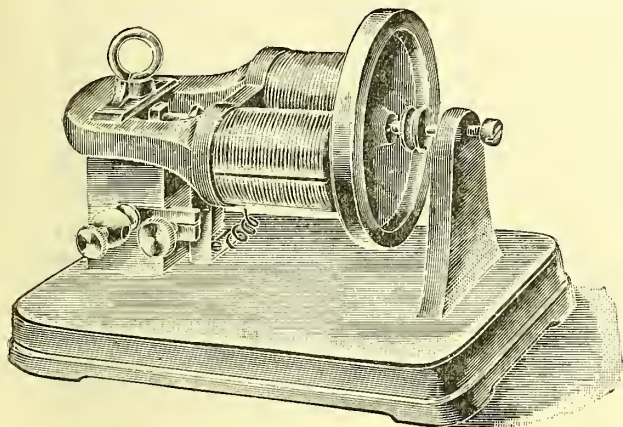
The retinoscope is not so much used among sight-testers in this country as it might be, considering that it is an instrument by which refractive errors can be estimated with great accuracy. The revolving discs of lenses are capable of giving over two hundred combinations of lenses.

Another novelty from America is an ophthalmic-cabinet for hanging on the wall of the sight-testing parlour. The cabinet is made of carved oak, and contains eight different cards used for sight-testing. Nos. 5 and 6 of the set of cards for testing astigmatism are rather novel, No. 5 containing lines in one direction, and No. 6 lines in a different direction, so that the person is not confused by a multiplicity of lines. The seventh card, the illiterate card, is very useful for testing children, as the card has on it a lot of pictures of familiar objects of different sizes, so as to answer the purpose of the test-types. Chemists who do the spectacle-trade should get particulars of these novelties.

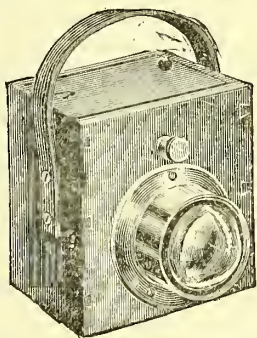
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

At Messrs. F. Darton & Co.'s, 142 St. John Street, Clerkenwell, E.C., I saw several things which seemed to me very suitable for Christmas trade. What, for instance, is more appreciated by the average boy than an electric motor? Messrs. Darton make quite a variety of patterns of motors at prices ranging from 2s. upwards. The "Ideal" motor (shown in the illustration) is of new design, and works with great smoothness either with a dry cell or a bichromate cell. For older people I noted some new patterns in opera-glasses. There is a kind in coloured mother-of-pearl which is most striking; the two colours—blue and royal red—show up well and combine with the iridescence of the pearl in a charming manner. A good saleable line in black leather and enamel costs about 15s., and has the large eye-pieces so much liked by the public. The firm have introduced a nice idea in cases for ladies' opera-glasses, the cases being dainty velvet and silk bags with cords for suspending from the arm.

Whilst speaking of opera-glasses, I ought to mention the new "Porro" field-glasses, in which prisms are used and a much larger image is thus given. I was much interested in



an electric cigar-lighter, which, although primarily intended for cigars, would be useful as a sealing-jet. By pulling a lever the gas is turned on, and a spark from two terminals immediately lights it, and the gas goes out as soon as the lever is released. Numerous patterns of electric lamps are produced by this firm, the miniature lamps fitted in scarf-pins being popular at this time of the year. I saw an ingenious electric hand-lamp, which can be had fitted with red glass for use in the dark-room; and a cheap form of voltmeter, useful for testing the voltage of dry batteries—which is not always what it seems. Many other Christmas goods are mentioned in a handy "novelty" list which Messrs. Darton are sending out, and which chemists who deal in scientific instruments should write for.



LIEBIG'S NEW NAME.

Curiosity as to the genesis of "Lemco" led me to investigate the matter at the offices of Messrs. Corneille David & Co.,



4 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., one day this week. There I was informed that there was no intention on the part of the Liebig Company either to change the well-known extract itself or the style of its get-up. The public will get the Liebig of yore, in the same jar, with the same old label, bearing the Baron's facsimile signature, on the front, but with the addition of a label (illustrated herewith) on the back of each jar. On the top and bottom of each wrapper there will also be placed a circular label, with the legend "Lemco" in white letters on a blue ground. The intention is to prevent the public confusing this with other meat-extracts, and the company hope that in course of time



"Lemco" will become the universal name for their preparation. The new labelling will come into force on January 1. and chemists wishing to have the new labels for any 1899 stock they may not have disposed of should intimate the fact to Messrs. Corneille David & Co.

Wills of Deceased Chemists.

BAMFORD-TAYLOR.—The will of Mr. Edmund Bamford-Taylor, chemist and druggist, Rochdale, who died on March 25 last, has been proved by Mrs. Taylor, the widow, Mr. Joseph Butterworth, 8 Charleston Street, and Mr. George Handley, 212 Halifax Road, all of Rochdale. The testator's estate was sworn at 5,365*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*, of which 1,007*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* is net personality.

BROOKS.—The late Mr. Thomas Brooks, chemist and druggist, Church Row, Wandsworth, having died on March 5 last intestate, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his widow, by whom the value thereof was sworn at 19*l.* 15*s.*

BULLOCK.—The will of the late Mr. Henry Bullock, chemist and druggist, 55 Oldfield Road, Salford, Manchester, has been proved in London by Mrs. Annie Bullock, the widow and executrix of the testator, whose estate was sworn at 454*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*

DOWNIE.—Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. S. R. Downie, chemist and druggist, 31 High Street, Battersea, who died intestate on February 9 last, have been granted by order of the Probate Court to Mr. James Bowdidge, by whom the deceased's estate was sworn at 115*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*

FROBISHER.—The estate of the late Mr. Frederick Frobisher, chemist and druggist, Selley Oak, Northfield, Birmingham, has been sworn at 990*l.* 3*s.* by his widow and executrix, Mrs. Alice H. Frobisher, to whom probate of the deceased's will has been granted.

HARRISON.—The late Mr. John Harrison, chemist and druggist, High Road, Loughton, Essex, having died unmarried, intestate, and without surviving parent, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his brother, Mr. George Harrison, by whom the value thereof was sworn at 255*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.*

HEATH.—The late Mr. Albert Heath, chemist and druggist, Bishop's Stortford, having died intestate, letters of administration to his estate have been granted at Somerset House to Mr. Frederick Charles Heath, next of kin of the deceased, whose personality was sworn at 430*l.*

HEWLINS.—Letters of administration to the estate of Mr. Edward Hewlins, chemist and druggist, Bridge Street, Leatherhead, who died on August 6 intestate, have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Annie Hewlins, by whom the value thereof is sworn at 503*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, the net personality being 69*l.* 10*s.*

HINDLE.—The will of the late Mr. James Hindle, chemist and druggist, Bank Top, Blackburn, has been proved by Mr. William Hindle and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Lupton, the executors of the testator, whose estate was sworn at 2,142*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*

MUNDEY.—At the Principal Probate Registry the will of Mr. Henry Munday, chemist and druggist, 137 Church Road, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, Blackpool, and Cheetham Hill, Manchester, who died on February 2 last, has been proved by Miss Ann Kershaw, the sole executrix of the testator, whose estate was sworn at 899*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, of which 351*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* is net personality.

NORTH.—The value of the estate of the late Mr. Thomas Henry North, chemist and druggist, Hardwick, Devonshire Place, Exeter, has been sworn at 164*l.* 19*s.* His sole executrix is his widow, Mrs. Sarah F. North, to whom probate of the testator's will has been granted.

TANSLEY.—The late Mr. A. J. Tansley, chemist and druggist, Tunstall, Staffordshire, having died intestate, letters of administration to his estate have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Sarah Tansley, by whom the value thereof was sworn at 186*l.* 5*s.* 4*d.*

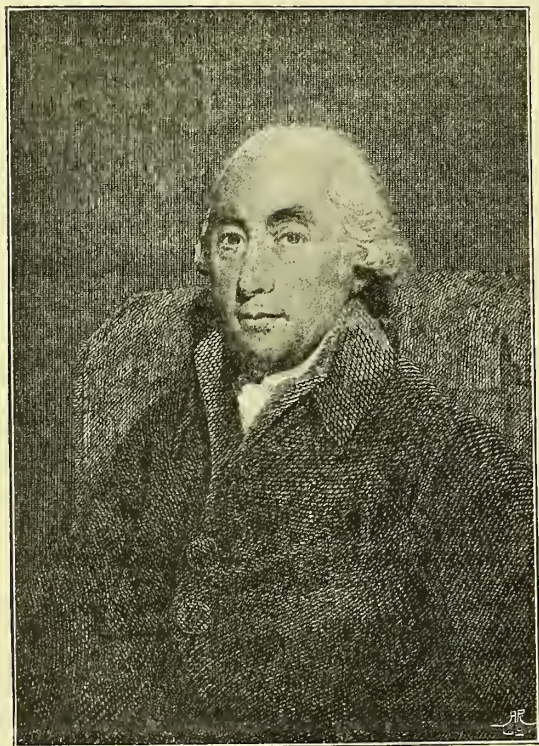
WESTON.—The will, executed on August 4, 1897, of Mr. Joseph Weston, The Hollies, Blurton Road, Fenton, Staffordshire, who died on March 23 last, has been proved by Mrs. Elizabeth Weston, the widow, and the Misses Emma Catherine and Elizabeth Maria Weston, the daughters of the testator, whose estate was sworn at 8,193*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.*, of which 63,66*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* is net personality.

Dr. Joseph Black:

A Centenary Memorial Sketch.

By LEONARD DOBBIN, Ph.D.

THE occurrence on the 6th of the present month of the 100th anniversary of the death of Dr. Joseph Black, the eminent chemist, affords an appropriate opportunity for referring briefly to his life and scientific labours, and



JOSEPH BLACK, M.D., F.R.S.E.

for considering some of the developments in chemistry which we owe to him directly or indirectly.

On the last page of the December part of the *Philosophical Magazine* for the year 1799 (vol. 5, page 312) the following notice is printed:—

Died.

At Edinburgh, on the 6th inst., Dr. Joseph Black, one of the Physicians to his Majesty for Scotland, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, and a Member of the different respectable Medical and Literary Societies in Europe. The noble science of Chemistry has received many valuable improvements and elucidations from the genius and industry of the learned Dr. Black, which will transmit his name with honour to the latest posterity.

His papers were found in such perfect order by his executors that we understand they intend speedily to publish them, with a life of the author.

This notice is quoted here because it contains three distinct statements upon which it is desirable to make some comment:—

1. It contains a contemporary expression of opinion regarding the honourable position which Dr. Black's name was destined to occupy in the chemical roll of fame. The justice of that opinion has since been fully confirmed by successive generations up to the present day.

2. It refers to the intention of the executors to publish Dr. Black's papers, with an account of his life. This

intention was carried out (in part, at least) by Professor John Robison, who edited Dr. Black's MS. lectures on chemistry, and published them in 1803 (two volumes), along with a biographical account of the author. The editor added a variety of notes, some of which were, and still are, of very considerable historical value. Dr. Black's laboratory journals and correspondence were not published, however, at that time. The present writer entertains the hope of being enabled to publish at a future date such portions, at least, of these papers as are of interest and value from a historical point of view.

3. It is one of the few announcements in which the date of Dr. Black's death is correctly stated as December 6, 1799. Dr. Adam Ferguson, who wrote an obituary notice of Dr. Black for the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1801, gives the date as November 26 (*Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, vol. 5, 1799–1803; "History of the Society," page 117), and Dr. Robison simply quotes this from Dr. Ferguson;* while in Thomson's "History of Chemistry" (vol. 1, page 333) November 10 is given.

No attempt will be made here to do more than outline some of the leading facts of Dr. Black's life, since the full biographies, already referred to, by Adam Ferguson and by Robison, are accessible in many libraries; and shorter biographical accounts are to be found in the various standard dictionaries of biography.

Joseph Black was born in France in 1728. His father was a native of Belfast, although of Scottish family, and he was generally resident at Bordeaux. His mother was descended from an Aberdeenshire family. On the title-page of his "Dissertatio Medica Inauguralis" young Black describes himself as "Gallus," and this, by accident of birth, he no doubt was. At the age of 12 he was sent from Bordeaux to school in Belfast, and in 1746 he entered upon the study of medicine at Glasgow University.

At the latter place he became the pupil, and soon attracted the attention, of Dr. William Cullen, who was afterwards famous as physician and professor in Edinburgh. There can be little doubt that the general direction taken by Black in his earlier researches was primarily due to the influence exercised upon him by Cullen, who had a very advanced opinion, for that period, concerning the enormous importance of chemistry; and it is very likely that the special subject of Black's first investigation was suggested to him by Cullen.

Black entered the University of Edinburgh to complete his medical studies in 1750 or 1751, and he obtained the degree of M.D. in 1754. The title of his inaugural dissertation is "De Humore Acido Cibus orto, et Magnesie Alba." A year later his famous "Experiments upon Magnesia Alba, Quicklime, and some other Alkaline Substances" was "read before a Society in Edinburgh," and it was printed in the following year. This paper will be referred to further on.

On the removal of Dr. Cullen to Edinburgh as professor of chemistry in 1756, Dr. Black succeeded him as professor of anatomy and lecturer on chemistry in Glasgow University; and ten years later, when Cullen was transferred to the chair of medicine in Edinburgh University, Black again succeeded him, and occupied the chair of chemistry in that University with much acceptance almost until his death.

The experiments upon latent heat—a subject with which the name of Black will always be inseparably connected,

* In spite of the quotation by Dr. Robison of an erroneous date, the true date of Dr. Black's death is established by Dr. Robison himself, since, in writing on December 11, 1799, to convey the news to Dr. Black's friend Watt, he states that the event took place "last Friday" (Muirhead's "Life of James Watt," page 501). December 11, 1799, was a Wednesday, and the Friday preceding was December 6.

since he was the first to announce the facts to the world—were made at an early period in his career. It is unfortunate that he did not publish these experiments and his deductions from them in a more formal manner than by simply laying them (as was his annual practice) before his students in his regular course of lectures on chemistry. Had he done so, it would have been impossible for unscrupulous persons to appropriate (as several did without any acknowledgment) various parts of his investigations, and to publish them as if they were their own discoveries. Frequently urged by his friends to protect himself by publishing his observations in full, we are informed by Robison that he several times entered upon the task of preparing them for publication, but that he was prevented from completing it by the feeble state of his health. His constitution was never robust, and any extra exertion on his part soon caused the development of distressing symptoms which compelled him to desist. Unprejudiced persons agree, however, in recognising Black as the discoverer of latent heat, and of various other matters relating to heat.

It is upon the paper on *magnesia alba*, quicklime, &c., that the undying reputation of Black as a chemist ultimately rests. This paper is in many ways a striking one. While it is absolutely revolutionary in the views that it contains regarding the relations to one another of the caustic and the mild (carbonated) alkalies, it is at the same time remarkable for the simplicity of its expression and for the complete and convincing nature of the experimental evidence adduced in it in support of the opinions that are advanced. It is, in short, a masterpiece of clear and conclusive deduction from the results of experiment. A matter of the first importance is the fact that the paper abounds in quantitative experiments, the balance being persistently employed at every point in order to ascertain whether—and, if so, to what extent—gain or loss of matter has occurred during a given operation or series of operations. It is very commonly stated that the quantitative method in chemical investigation was inaugurated by Lavoisier; but the statement is absolutely disproved by the evidence of this paper, which shows that Black employed that method in the most intelligent manner as early 1755, whereas Lavoisier's earliest chemical paper was presented for publication in 1785, at which date its author was 22.

The conclusions arrived at in the paper on *magnesia alba* were entirely at variance with the current opinions respecting caustic alkalies. The latter were obtained by the action of quicklime upon the alkali carbonates, and obviously (as it was supposed) they derived their caustic character from the quicklime. The latter, in turn, was regarded as limestone which had acquired something of a fiery or caustic nature from the fire, during the process of "burning" in the lime-kiln; and it was this fiery constituent which it handed over to the alkali carbonates in rendering them caustic. Such views were in complete accord with the general ideas of the period when a belief in the existence of a material principle of fire was commonly entertained. Black showed, however, that limestone, when heated to bright redness, lost weight instead of gaining it in becoming converted into quicklime; and from this he concluded that it had lost some material substance instead of gaining anything. Setting himself the task of finding out what the material substance was that was lost during the heating, he succeeded in ascertaining that it was the gas which we now call carbonic anhydride. He called this gas "fixed air," considering that it had existed in the limestone in a fixed state. From these fundamental observations he was led step by step to the complete elucidation of the relations between the mild and the caustic alkalies.

It is worth mentioning here that Black's theory met with

stout opposition at the hands of a number of continental chemists; but it eventually triumphed, after a prolonged controversy in which a number of the ablest chemists of the time took part.

The opinion has sometimes been expressed that the elucidation by Black of the true nature of the caustic alkalies was a great step towards the overthrow of the phlogiston theory of combustion. Looking backwards, it may be admitted that the opinion is warranted in a sense; but we must remember the significant fact that neither Black himself nor any of his contemporaries at the middle of last century had their faith in the phlogiston theory in the least degree shaken by his experiments.

The old view with respect to the caustic alkalies was closely akin to the central idea of the phlogiston theory. The presence of a principle of causticity in the alkalies was in many respects upon a level with the presence of phlogiston, or the principle of inflammability in all combustible substances. The phlogistians held that the burning of a combustible substance involved the loss of the principle of inflammability, and for the most part they paid little or no attention to the relations by weight of the substances burned, and of the products of the combustion. What the latter products were, even, was at first quite unknown in many cases.

It was Lavoisier who, single-handed at the outset, and despite the most active opposition, eventually overthrew the phlogiston theory, advancing our modern theory of combustion in its stead. We know from some of his earlier papers that Lavoisier at first held the general views concerning combustible substances and phlogiston. But in his "Essays Physical and Chemical" (published in 1774, English translation 1776) we find him with his faith evidently somewhat shaken, although he is still in doubt. In these essays he gives a historical summary of the more important previous observations concerning gases, including in it a chapter which gives a short, but moderately fair, statement of Black's discoveries. For some reason that does not appear, however, Lavoisier accords the most grudging recognition to the merits of Black's investigations, and goes out of his way to state in a footnote that Black's theory was not originally advanced in the perfected form in which it is stated in these essays. That this statement of the footnote is simply untrue can be proved, however, by anyone who cares to read Black's paper and then Lavoisier's summary of it.

But while Lavoisier endeavours to disparage Black's merits in the discovery of the new facts, he does not fail to profit by the facts themselves, for there seems to be little doubt that he sees further ahead with respect to them than any of his contemporaries. The writer has long held the view (for which no claim to originality is made, since, in part at least, it is certainly not novel) that Lavoisier derived the first suggestions of the lines of investigation which led him to his new chemical system from a careful study (which internal evidence in his papers shows that he made) of the writings of the two British chemists Boyle and Black. An exposition of the grounds for this view would extend to too great length for the matter to be dealt with here, but it may not be an inadmissible assumption that the modern views regarding combustion, while directly due to Lavoisier, are indirectly due in large measure to Black.

Besides his paper on *magnesia alba*, Black published further chemical and other papers, but these are not of the same first-class importance. They comprise: "The Supposed Effect of Boiling upon Water, in disposing it to freeze more readily, ascertained by Experiments" (*Phil. Trans.*, 1775, page 124); "An Analysis of the Waters of some Hot Springs

in Iceland" (*Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, Vol 3, Part II., 1794 page 95); and some letters on subjects of minor chemical importance, contributed to different magazines. There is, moreover, an essay by Black entitled "An Explanation of the Effect of Lime upon Alkaline Salts; and a Method pointed out whereby it may be used with Safety and Advantage in Bleaching," which appears to have escaped the notice of his biographers. It constitutes part of an appendix to the Dublin edition of Dr. Francis Home's "Experiments on Bleaching," which bears the date 1771.

The mortal remains of Dr. Black were interred in Edinburgh, in that part of Greyfriars Churchyard which once was, and is still known as, "the Covenanters' prison." His tombstone bears a laudatory Latin inscription, the concluding sentence of which reads:—

Amici qui eximiam ejus virtutem et ingenium colere solebant, locum hunc, corporis receptaculum, dum marmor hocce superesset, sic designatum voluerunt.

The memory of our greatest names in chemistry is happily more enduring than the graven marble; for the tablet bearing the above sentence had become so much defaced by the teeth of time that it had to be replaced five years ago by a more lasting one of local sandstone. The renewal was carried out at civic expense. A species of ranunculus contends bravely for the whole surface of the limited space, enclosed as it is on three sides by high walls, in which Dr. Black's grave is situated.

University of Edinburgh, December, 1899.

Personalities.

WE had a call last week from Mr. Hans Dieterich, of Helfenberg, Germany, who was in London on business.

MR. WALTER STAVERT, chemist, Selkirk, has been elected a member of the Town Council of that burgh.

MR. PAGE WOODCOCK, pill-manufacturer, Lincoln, has been elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce in that city.

MR. FRED. LAWSON, Ph.C., Manchester, one of the principals of the Northern College of Pharmacy, has obtained the B.Sc. degree of the London University.

MR. ALFRED HIGGS, J.P., chemist and druggist, Kingston-on-Thames, has been additionally appointed a Justice of the Peace under the Lunacy Acts for the borough.

MR. PERCY E. TURNER, M.B., B.S. Durham, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Eng., son of Mr. E. Anstee Turner, chemist, 280 Fulham Road, S.W., has taken the D.P.H. degree at Oxford University. He has also been awarded the Stephen Scholarship at Durham University.

MR. F. PALMER, chemist and druggist, 92 Packingham Street, Islington, N., has won the prize of five guineas offered by Mr. G. S. V. Wills, of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy, in September last, for the best design for a pharmaceutical certificate.

Business Changes.

MESSRS. EDWARDS & Co., chemists, Guildford, have taken premises in Friary Street, in that town, which they will shortly open for business purposes.

MR. A. J. SARSON, chemist, 33 High Road, Willesden Green, N.W., has taken over the business formerly carried on by Mr. J. L. Rowland, at Station Parade, Willesden Green.

MR. C. W. PLOWMAN, chemist and druggist, has taken over the businesses of Mr. W. A. Hume at 46 Cannon Street, Middlesborough, and of Mr. W. J. Daniels at 147 Cannon Street, Middlesborough.

MR. ALBERT VICTOR DEWDNEY, formerly with Messrs. Godfrey & Cooke, has purchased the Belgrave Pharmacy, 60 St. George's Road, S.W., established by Mr. W. W. Urwick and lately carried on by Mr. Edward Brooke.

Marriage.

ANDERSON—TREVELYAN.—At Edinburgh, on November 29, by the Rev. D. A. Beattie, assisted by the Rev. David Kilpatrick and the Rev. John Stewart, James Grant Anderson, chemist, Newhaven and Trinity, to Helen Whitlaw, elder daughter of Mr. W. A. B. Trevelyan, of Trinity.

Deaths.

CURRIE.—The Midwives' Society has issued a circular letter regarding the late Mrs. Currie, who died on October 17, aged 32. She was the founder, organiser, Secretary, and lastly President of the Society. In midwifery she was second to none. She had held various appointments, including that of dispenser to the Manchester Medical Mission, having qualified as an Assistant-Apothecary by examination at the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland. The Society has decided to erect a memorial to Mrs. Currie.

GRAHAME.—At Philadelphia, Penn., U.S.A., after a long illness, Israel J. Grahame, in his 81st year. He was the first pharmacist in America who used percolation in pharmacy. This was about the year 1850. Mr. Grahame had suffered from paralysis for twenty years, and during the greater part of his illness could neither speak nor write.

HUGHES.—At Higher Broughton, Manchester, on December 2, Evan Griffiths Hughes, manufacturing chemist. Mr. Hughes, who was a registered chemist and druggist, was a well-known Manchester man. He had carried on business for nearly fifty years in the city. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Royal Manchester Horticultural and Botanical Society, Old Trafford.

MILNER.—At Consett, on December 2, Mr. Thomas Milner, chemist and druggist. Mr. Milner, who was at business as usual on the day of his death, was seized with a paralytic stroke in his shop, and died in his apartments a short time afterwards. We learn that he served his apprenticeship with Mr. Whitwell, of Thirsk. After obtaining a varied experience in Hastings, St. Leonards and London he went to Consett in 1882 as manager of a pharmacy, but soon opened on his own account, in Shakespeare Street. In 1891 he bought the business of Messrs. Hughes & Co., in Front Street, Consett, which he carried on as a branch. Deceased was at one time on the Council of the Newcastle and District Chemists' Association, and was a member at the time of his death.

O'KELLY.—At Limerick, after a few days' illness, Mr. Malachy J. O'Kelly, of the firm of Messrs. J. P. Evans & Co., chemist and druggist, Limerick.

PERKINS.—At Wolverhampton, suddenly, on December 5, Mr. John Perkins, chemist and druggist. Aged 75. Deceased was one of the oldest chemists in the town, and a much-respected and popular man. He gained considerable notoriety in Wolverhampton and district for his successful treatment of the diseases of dogs, cats, and poultry.

PRUDHOE.—On November 25, Mr. Robert Prudhoe, chemist and druggist, West Hartlepool. Aged 75.

SANGSTER.—On November 29, at Hayford House, Kennington Park Road, Rosa, widow of Mr. Thomas Sangster, chemist and druggist, M.R.C.V.S., C.C., formerly of Long Lane, West Smithfield.

SMITH.—On December 2, of meningitis, Kathleen May, younger daughter of Harry G. Smith, chemist, Downham Market. Aged 1½ year.

"THE ART OF DISPENSING."—It is perfectly proper to say that, no matter how extensive his library, no pharmacist should be without a copy of this book, while to the student preparing for examination it is almost indispensable.—*The Western Druggist.*

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.



"MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE."

From the chromolithographic portrait in "*Vanity Fair*," November 30. By permission of the Editor.

* * * *

DR. THOMAS STEVENSON, the Government Visitor at the Pharmaceutical examinations, was rather inaccurately presented pictorially, but humorously described, in last week's *Vanity Fair*. "Jehu Junior" says of him that he became a Yorkshireman nearly sixty years ago, and that some of his courtliness remains with him in a rather clumsy aptness for breaking test-tubes and other delicate glass; but this detracts nothing from his complete efficiency as the greatest toxicologist living. "He is a nice kindly old gentleman; a little nervous about being 'crawu'—[We can confirm this.—ED.]—but as honest as the day, though no poisoner can escape him. . . . He has a solemn delivery which impresses the jury, and he is a very skilful hand at eluding a question." "Jehu" also describes Dr. Stevenson as an amateur meteorologist, says he fancies himself somewhat at law-tennis, is a devout churchwarden at Brixton, likes a glass of port after dinner, and is popular with his students, who call him Tommy.

* * * *

A SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE.—"Whether you know it or not, or wish it or not, you are drifting towards a universal language, in obedience to the law of evolution." So writes his Excellency Sir Chihchen Lofengluk, the Chinese Minister to Great Britain, in the *National Review*. We already adopt symbols, he points out, in mathematics, astronomy, natural philosophy, and chemistry, and the Chinese can help us to others in the departments of morality and sociology, which will then complete the circle of knowledge as mapped out by Comte. Drawing an illustration from chemistry, Sir

Chihchen asks whether it is not simpler to write $6I + 6KHO = 5HI + KIO_3 + 3H_2O$, than to use the words "Iodine and caustic potash yield hydriodic acid, potassium iodate, and water"? The former expression, too, would be intelligible to every chemist in Europe—if Sir Chihchen had happened to put it accurately, $5KI$ instead of $5HI$. His Excellency modestly disclaims any intention of suggesting the adoption of his own picturesque language in substitution for our mushroom phonetic ones, but there it is if we want it.

* * * *

THE CASTIGATION OF MR. VICTOR HORSLEY by Mr. Brudenell Carter was the event of the recent session of the Medical Council. Nothing parallel to it has ever occurred in that usually sedate environment. Mr. Horsley came on the Council some three years ago, and his sense of the responsibility thrown upon him has been so severe that in session and out of session he has found himself compelled to denounce certain of his colleagues to an extent which seemed to less earnest people to amount to virulent abuse. The late venerable President, Sir Richard Quain, had rather a rough time of it with this earnest reformer, and Mr. Brudenell Carter, who represents the Society of Apothecaries on the Council, has always been a butt for his sneers. Mr. Carter has borne these attacks patiently, but a wildly inaccurate statement published by Mr. Horsley recently gave him an opportunity for an effective return, and showed that in the way of invective few persons can use the English language more skilfully than himself. Mr. Horsley had stated that Mr. Carter was not elected by medical men, but by a few druggists and other persons who styled themselves the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries, who knew no more about medicine than about bootmaking. He also referred to them as a handful of tradesmen who, having no medical education, prescribed over the counter in the druggist's shop of the Apothecaries' Hall. On the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Medical Council, Mr. Carter was granted a special quarter of an hour to meet these and other of Mr. Horsley's allegations, and it proved a bad quarter of an hour for Mr. Horsley. Mr. Carter said he had submitted in silence to Mr. Horsley's opinions as long as their expression amounted only to a mere "derangement of epitaphs." But he felt bound on behalf of the Society he represented to reply to these allegations. Having referred to Mr. Horsley's general "economy of truth" in medical matters, and to the "studied insolence" of his phraseology, Mr. Carter said:—

Gibbon somewhere pointed out that every animal is accustomed to utter the howl or cry peculiar to its species, and he thought the use of definitely insolent phraseology towards gentlemen who had given no offence, gentlemen of mature age, gentlemen who had spent long lives of usefulness, honour, and repute, might fairly be described as the howl or cry of that variety of the human race known to modern sociologists as the "bounder."

Mr. Carter explained that he was elected not by the Master and Wardens, but by the Court of the Apothecaries' Company; that that Court consisted of twenty-four gentlemen who were all required to be qualified medical men; they were elected by the livery of the Society, and the Master and Wardens were chosen from amongst themselves. Mr. Horsley knew that he was elected by this Court, for in a previous controversy he had expressly stated it. Mr. Carter dealt in like fashion with some other of Mr. Horsley's charges, and that gentleman replied with rather less than his usual force, though he had the grace to admit his error in regard to Mr. Carter's election, and to apologise for it.

SCHOOL EXAMINER: "What is the meaning of 'false doctrine'?" Schoolboy: "Please, sir, it's when the doctor gives the wrong stuff to the people who are sick."

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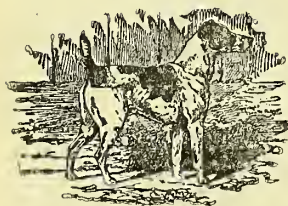
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Editorial Comments.

"Not Waiting."

At the Pharmaceutical Council meeting, Bloomsbury Square, on Wednesday, the President intimated that the Council has decided upon a policy, but there was nothing else said about it at the meeting, although the seventy-three suggestions which have been sent in to the Council from provincial Associations are to be considered by the Law and Parliamentary Committee. This is just what we expected, and

chemists must possess their souls in patience until the second week in January at least, when the Society's representatives may have seen the Lord Chancellor or the Local Government Board in order to submit their proposals, with the view of amending the Lord Chancellor's clause in the Companies Bill. What are those proposals to be? Not a compromise, we take it, so far as the actual proposals are concerned, but diplomatic declarations of the most we would like and the least that we will take. In this connection it will be noted that while there was an overwhelming majority of the trade in favour of the restriction of titles to individuals, and what amounts to the delegatisation of pharmacy companies, not solely composed of registered chemists and druggists, the alternative proposal of the section next in order numerically is that no company should carry on the business contemplated by the Pharmacy Act without a directorate consisting wholly of qualified chemists and druggists.

Another satisfactory matter arising from the Pharmaceutical Council meeting is the declaration from the chair that it will be necessary to work along with the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. We are pleased to hear this, for it is the one step that was needful to ensure the best possible hearing by the Government, and we hope that simultaneously with the deputation to Whitehall there will be a deputation from the Irish Pharmaceutical Council to Dublin Castle.

We earnestly counsel the trade, however, not to expect too much from the Pharmaceutical Councils. Neither body is wholly unanimous on this question. The Irish drug-trade has not actively interested itself in the matter, but we understand that a considerable section would fight any proposal to abolish the company principle so far as pharmacy is concerned—and that is the principle which the President of the Society has consistently endeavoured to uphold. Probably the President and the Council would take less, and they are not likely to quarrel with their *confrères* in Great Britain if such a programme as protection of titles and a qualified directorate were adopted as the irreducible minimum. But the London Council is the dark horse. The "majority" of last month has been voiceless this week—a circumstance which either signifies defeat or shuffling on somebody's part. Although we are inclined to counsel forbearance by the trade until our leaders make up their minds, we cannot overlook the fact that the "majority" is fighting a "minority" which includes the do-nothings—those whom Mr. Thomas Barclay referred to at Birmingham last week as having let more than one opportunity for reform slip past during the past two decades. It would be stretching the imagination too far to hope that these members of the minority are eager for reform now. Is it a game of "bluff" that is being played in Bloomsbury? It looks exceedingly like it.

Meanwhile "the enemy" gives indication of defence. It will be observed from our report of the annual meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Boots (Limited), Nottingham, that the most astute and far-seeing gentleman who presided at the meeting gave an indication that he at least is beginning to put his house in order in anticipation that the Legislature will see the reasonableness of our qualified-directorate suggestion. Can he be "too previous?"

British Pharmacopœia Addendum.

THE report submitted to the General Medical Council on Tuesday regarding the British Pharmacopœia shows that the demand for it continues and the Council is beginning to make a profit by it. The greater part of the report, however, dealt with the Indian and Colonial Addendum to the

Pharmacopœia, upon which Dr. Attfield, F.R.S., submitted a report extending to nine octavo pages, he having received fifty-three replies out of seventy British Administrations who were addressed on the subject. The reports are classified under India, the African Colonies, Australasian Colonies, Eastern Colonies, Mediterranean Colonies, North American Colonies and the West Indian Colonies. It is noticeable that many of the reports state that the British Pharmacopœia suffices for the local requirements. We observe that the report is not quite up to date, nor does it embody several valuable contributions which have been to the subject.

From advance sheets we learn that *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia* for November contains a very full report of a meeting of the committee appointed by the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales to consider what addenda, if any, should be recommended to the Pharmacopœia Committee. There was a long discussion on eucalyptus oil, following a communication made by Messrs. Baker and Smith on the subject, and the committee agreed to recommend the addition of certain characters and tests to those at present given in the Pharmacopœia. The committee also discussed eucalyptus kino, and recommended that it should be made official, and that the following should be added to the recommendation suggested by the Pharmacopœia Committee:—

The tests and descriptions of the official kino, as given in the Pharmacopœia, page 167, also apply to eucalyptus kino. Any eucalyptus kino that is friable, almost entirely soluble in water and also in alcohol (90-per-cent.), is coloured green in very dilute aqueous solution by the addition of one drop of ferric-chloride solution, and which gives but a small quantity of extract of ether in aqueous solution (absence of excess of eudesmin or aromadendrin).

The committee met again on September 28, when the most important decision arrived at was that *Euphorbia pilulifer* should not be included in the Addendum, but it was suggested that the Australasian leech, *Hirudo quinquestrata*, should be recognised over New South Wales, and Mr. Baker submitted the following improved characters for the so-called *Beilschmiedia*:—

The bark of *Cinnamomum Oliveri*, Bail. N.O. *Laurineæ* (Baker, *Proc. Linn. Soc.*, N.S.W., 1897, page 275).

Characters.—In flat pieces attaining 8 inches (2 dm.) or more in length, and 1½ inch (37 mm.) or more in width. It is covered with a coarsely granular periderm of a deep orange-brown colour, marbled with patches of a yellowish-brown hue; the tissues beneath the periderm are of a deep umber-brown colour, and have a close satin-like surface marked with very fine striae. It has a close fracture, slightly fibrous in the liber portion. Odour—aromatic and spicy, recalling sassafras and camphor. Taste—agreeably spicy and camphoraceous.

Preparation Tinctura Oliveri.—Tincture of Oliveri. Name, Queensland sassafras. Cinnamomum (in No. 40 powder), 2 oz. Imperial, 100 grammes metric; alcohol (90 per-cent.), a sufficient quantity. Moisten the powder with 1 fl. oz. (or 50 c.c.) of the alcohol, and complete the percolation process. The resulting tincture should measure 1 pint (or 1,000 c.c.).

Dr. Attfield, in his report, referring to suggestions which he had received from Australia, especially the contributions which had been made to the subject by *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*, makes the following remarks:—

Pharmaceutical data as to the frequency of use of a drug, valuable when the medical question is one of exclusion of an old drug, are obviously of less value when the question relates to the inclusion of a new drug, the introduction being a medical matter and necessarily antecedent to the general employment of the drug. An editorial note in the same journal includes two remarks which go to the root of the relations of the Australasian colonies to the projected Addendum. "One of the most striking features of the practice of pharmacy in Australia is the very small variation from the practice of the Old Country. . . . The climatic conditions do not differ very greatly from those of the Old Country."

Dr. Attfield concludes his report with the remark that "all those who have taken an interest in the matter agree

upon the broad principle of imperialisation of the great national book of medicines." The report gives no indications as to when the Addendum will be ready.

Isle of Man Pharmacy Bill.

THIS Bill, as mentioned last week, has passed the Legislative Council of the Isle of Man, and is now before the House of Keys. In the passage of the Bill through the Council several alterations have been made, and a memorandum in the following terms now prefaces the measure:—

This Bill deals with the sales of poisons and compounding the prescriptions of medical men. Persons selling poisons or compounding medical prescriptions are required to be qualified as pharmaceutical chemists or chemists and druggists. Persons recognised as pharmaceutical chemists (or chemists and druggists) are those qualified as such under the Pharmacy Act, 1868 (an Act of the Imperial Parliament), or under the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) 1875 (an Act of the Imperial Parliament), or any Act amending the same passed previous to the promulgation of this Act. Chemists and druggists are defined by the 5th section of the Bill, and include all persons registered as such under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and all persons who up to July 5, 1899, have carried on in this isle the business of a chemist and druggist by keeping open shop for the compounding of medical prescriptions. Provisions are also made for the recognition of assistants under certain circumstances. Persons selling or keeping open shop for the sale of poisons or compounding medical prescriptions, or using any title or description implying the possession of a qualification to practise pharmacy, without being a pharmaceutical chemist or a chemist and druggist, are made liable to a penalty not exceeding 10*l*. Nothing in the Bill is to affect any legally-qualified medical practitioner, or any member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of Great Britain as to dispensing medicines for animals under his care, or the dealing in patent medicines, or wholesale dealers. The Bill contains regulations to be observed in the sale of poisons, and provides that the Adulteration Acts, 1874 to 1895, shall extend to medicines.

The most notable point about the amended measure is that further provision has been made for the recognition of assistants. In the original draft it was mentioned that assistants who had been for one year before July 5, 1899, assistants with a chemist and druggist in the Isle of Man, and for nine years previous in the Island or in the United Kingdom, would be recognised under the measure when it becomes law. It is now added that after December 31, 1901, any such persons will only be recognised if they have passed the Assistants' examination of the Society of Apothecaries of London. This is an ingenious way of providing a modified examination, but it will be observed that it is of limited application, for it applies only to persons who have been ~~ten~~ years in the trade before July 5 last, one of these years having been in the Isle of Man. The Bill has been considerably altered as to sequence, and the clause which reserves the rights of medical practitioners and veterinary surgeons has had added to it the other provisions of the sixteenth section of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, providing for carrying on the businesses of deceased chemists and non-interference with the making and dealing in patent medicines or the business of wholesale dealers. The Bill still exhibits signs of careless drafting—for example, certificates referring to Great Britain qualifications are to be signed by the President and two members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, and the Irish certificates by the President and two members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. If this applies to the examination certificates it is all wrong. In Great Britain the certificate is given by the Boards of Examiners, whose chairman may be the President of the Society, but the other signatories need not necessarily be members of the Society, and some are not. Perhaps the House of Keys will see that the measure is properly phrased, and that its provisions, so far as British and Irish pharmacy is concerned, accord with actualities.

Unsuccessful Companies.

THE Board of Trade report for 1898 on the winding-up of companies has just been issued. It includes a report and tables of particulars of the amount and character of company insolvency, and the results of the winding-up as far as can be ascertained. It also contains a report by the solicitor of the Board of Trade on legal proceedings conducted by him under the Companies (Winding-up) Act.

The number of companies wound up during the year was 1,745, besides which several were removed from the register which had become defunct without liquidation, bringing the total up to 2,046. The total number of abortive or liquidating companies in 1898 was, in proportion to the new companies, 56 per cent., as against 44 per cent. during the previous year, and the general conclusions to be drawn from a perusal of the tables appear to be that there has been during the past three years a great increase in liquidations and in the amount of capital involved in them, a disproportionately large increase in the proportion of vendors' capital involved as compared with that subscribed by the public, and that an increased number of companies has been wound up voluntarily. The increase in vendors' shares, which necessarily gives to the persons connected with the formation of the company a larger controlling voice in the liquidation, and the corresponding increase in the voluntary method, which avoids independent investigation into the causes of failure and the history of the company's transactions, have been pointed out in previous reports, and the general tendency of liquidation proceedings seems to be to withdraw the failures of companies from the supervision and investigation which Parliament has thought necessary.

The figures representing the total ascertained losses do not fully represent the actual amount of insolvency, as in a number of joint-stock companies the information has been defective, but it is a natural inference that in the majority of these cases, which show a paid-up capital of 8,192,543*l*., the results of liquidation are likely to be less favourable than in cases where full particulars have been supplied. The amount of known liquidations was 15,205,411*l*., and estimating the unknown cases in the same proportion the total loss for 1898 would be 21,000,000*l*.. Out of these considerations two important questions of public interest arise—viz, how far it is desirable that so large a mass of insolvency should be dealt with independent of supervision, and how far the losses thus disclosed are of a preventable character or could be affected by legislation.

The nature of the business of 119 companies, involving public obligations of 100,000*l*., and upwards, are classified as follows:—

Companies connected with the cycle-trade	11
Companies connected with the Press and printing-trade	9
Mining and exploring	17
Hotels, restaurants, &c.	8
Miscellaneous manufacturing and patent development	29
Miscellaneous trading (chiefly retail business)	28
Financial syndicates and promoting-companies	8
Sundries	9

One of the special features of the cause of failure appears to be the extension of the system of forming "one-man companies." A large number of these companies had practically no capital, the object being to trade on credit, partly by means of the issue of debentures and partly by incurring trade-debts. Another cause was the obvious insolvency of the business at the time of the company's promotion. In the latter case, however, while the magnitude of the cases in which this device is practised has diminished, the number has increased

and the character of the transactions has deteriorated. Another prominent feature of the cases of the past year was the allotment of shares on a totally inadequate subscription. Here again there was a tendency for the cases to diminish as regarded their financial importance, but to become aggravated in their fraudulent tendency. The provisions of the Companies Bill, should it become law, may have a tendency to check this in many cases, but whether they will have any material effect upon the worst cases is doubtful. These could only, the report considers, be effectually reached by an amendment of the criminal law. As illustrating the difficulty of dealing with the question, it is pointed out that in the case of the *Compagnie Vimbos Franco-Belge (Limited)*, whose prospectus, containing well-known names of directors, solicitors, &c., was widely advertised, only 509*l.* was subscribed by the public out of 105,000*l.* offered for subscription; but the directors went to allotment on the faith of under-written subscriptions of 44,491*l.*, out of which the company was unable to recover more than 700*l.* "There is no reason," says the report, "for supposing that the directors in that case knew that these subscriptions were worthless . . . but someone must have known the facts."

Another feature of frequent occurrence is the secret qualification of directors by means of gifts of shares. Many directors fail to realise that the receipt of such gifts without the knowledge of the company is illegal. The ordinary business director has no means of ascertaining his responsibilities except by taking legal advice, and the suggestion that a statement of these responsibilities should be prepared has been strongly resisted on the ground that such a statement would alarm many persons and prevent their assuming the office of director. But if the law upon this question were stated distinctly in statutory form, or if directors, before acting, were required to make a declaration that they had received no gifts or other consideration except such as were disclosed in the prospectus, this practice, which lies at the root of so many irregularities in company-formation, would undoubtedly be greatly checked.

POLITICS OR THE PESTLE.

IN the town of Somewhere there flourished, by strict attention to business, Mr. John Pharmak, the people's chemist. He always had time to pass a pleasant word to the penny customer, to see the Squire's wife into her carriage, and to read the *C. & D.* without encroaching on the Sunday's worship. Honest John read every word about the company question—first, because he felt that in his rural town he was out of it, and that it might help to keep him in the swim; second, because many of his old college friends had "views on the subject," and aired them. Last Sunday he fell asleep over some of the speeches, and while he slept he dreamt that a new Federation manifesto had been issued, and that the local Associations struggled to provide what it called for—viz., good working formulæ for (1) a non-committal female pill; (2) winter complexion-balm; (3) a new horse-ball; (4) a safe headache-powder; and (5) laxative and tonic syrup. As he dreamt he was heard to whisper, "The Millennium has come: they have stopped preaching and begun to practise."

BORIC ACID AS A PRESERVATIVE.

In connection with the inquiry by the Royal Commission regarding the use of preservatives in food, we may mention the timely publication by Messrs. J. & A. Churchill of an essay by Dr. Oscar Liebreich, of the Berlin University, on experiments which he has made with boric acid on the human system and on animals. Dr. Liebreich has convinced himself that boric acid and borax are not only harmless in the quantities used for food-preservation, but not at all

dangerous when taken in excess or continuously. The essay contains valuable data which other investigators should refer to. The Royal Commission appears to have finished the witness part of its inquiry. We will presume that it will recommend Parliament to limit the use of preservatives, and that once a preservative is added to a food, the fact will be stated, so as to prevent repetition of the antiseptic.

ONE-MAN COMPANIES.

Such a pity it is that the Lord Chief Justice is not now a fully active parliamentarian. A better advocate than he for the chemists' position could not be imagined. We reported on November 18 what he said to the Lord Mayor of London regarding the skill and knowledge which directors of companies should bring to bear upon the businesses which they undertake to manage, and now he has given us a point regarding one-man companies. In summing up a case last week, in which one of the parties in a company suit was an undischarged bankrupt, he said:—

That a man who was an undischarged bankrupt had got together the necessary number of dummies and had formed the company under the protection of the law was a scandal, and how long such a scandal would be allowed to continue he did not know. He pointed out that if a man, being an undischarged bankrupt, obtained credit to the amount of 20*l.* without revealing that fact he was guilty of a crime, and yet seven undischarged bankrupts could clothe themselves with the Act of Parliament and obtain credit not merely for a few pounds but for thousands without committing a criminal offence.

That is exactly a parallel to the pharmaceutical position, and if the Legislature desires to disable bankrupts, as the Lord Chief Justice hints, it should at the same time disable unqualified persons from evading the Pharmacy Act in the same manner.

THE DOCTOR'S DISPENSER.

A correspondent sends us a cutting from the advertisement-columns of the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* which, he thinks, may prove of interest to our readers. It is as follows:—

CHEMIST Wanted to act as Dispenser to Doctor; had with about two years' experience in chemist's shop; 15*s.* weekly, without board or lodging.—Address by letter, *Chronicle Office*.

We were always under the impression that it took longer than "about two years in a chemist's shop" to make a "chemist"; but we are ever open to learn.

UNQUALIFIED DISPENSERS.

The General Medical Council has not distinguished itself by the way in which it has handled the unqualified-dispenser question. It practically repeats what was said when the subject was sent back for consideration, six months ago. The rarity of accidents, which is taken as the basis for doing nothing, is an argument that should not have been used by a council of medical education. The committee has violated all Council precedent by putting on record that the members do not know where the line is to be drawn where a qualified man becomes indispensable for dispensing purposes. The Council has drawn such a line in regard to medical practice, and it is entirely for the public safety that the same principle should have been recognised regarding the pharmaceutical part of the medical practice. A recommendation by the Council that dispensing in doctors' surgeries should either be done under the direct supervision of the prescriber or by a qualified dispenser would have been consistent with its past actions, but the one that it has come to is neither that nor dignified.

METRIC SYSTEM IN U.S.A.

We observe that in the U.S. Treasury report more frank support is given to the metric system of weights and measures than has ever come from that Government before. This is owing to the new colonial interests of the country

and also on account of the coming Exposition in Paris. The report says:—

The intense commercial rivalry of nations warns us to leave nothing undone which might further our own interests, and there can be no doubt that the introduction of the metric system, to which this country stands pledged since the meeting of the International American Conference in 1890, would greatly facilitate international commercial transactions. Without doubt, Great Britain and Russia would follow the initiative of this country in this matter, and thus what a few decades ago would have been considered an unattainable ideal—namely, a system of weights and measures common at least to all Western nations—would be reached.

We presume that Great Britain and Russia would follow the United States, but that would be because the United States moved first. It will be a long time before this country and Russia abolish their present systems, which is what metric faddists want.

THE ABSENT-MINDED CUTTER.

While the newly-wakened pharmacist is frothing at the mouth,
And passing resolutions by the score,
And our lusty Northern leaders tell their brethren in the South
That they're false and void of principle—and more,
The suave and artless Cutter, looking bored and slightly pained,
Makes a memo. in blue pencil to remind him,
By the time we've finished fighting, and our high ideal gained,
There'll be nothing much worth having left behind him.
This year—next year—a larger dividend.
Everything cut to the uttermost, so the grumblers say.
Everything cut, and nothing to cut (where is it going to end?),
How can we possibly make our business pay—pay—pay?

Energetic Federations, focussing our discontent,
Are setting all the country by the ears.
Much precious ink is wasted, fiery eloquence is spent,
In telling what we've known these twenty years.
But the absent-minded Cutter deadly silence yet maintains,
Though any anxious searcher still may find him
A-piling up the shekels, using other people's brains,
And winking at the havoc left behind him.
Oil-shop—paint-shop—shop of the grocery kind,
Shop of the haughty huckster, it's all the same to-day.
As long as they get what they *think* is right, nobody
seems to mind,
It's all the same to the public whom they pay—pay—pay.

Eighty bands of pharmacists all itching for the fight;
Four-score resolutions to be passed;
The thought of future conflicts fills our souls with sad affright,
And we speculate how many years 'twill last.
And the Cutter squats serenely, saying nothing all the while:
In unwonted taciturnity we find him;
So we prod his absent-mindedness in miscellaneous style,
And drop a little bombshell just behind him.
"Glyn-Jones! Go in, Jones! Kick him till he start!"
"Jones is wrong," says Lancashire; "none can us gainsay."
Thus East and West and North and South diverse advice impart,
Explaining how we're going to make it pay—pay—pay.

But this grim portentous silence of the enemy around,
Is it contempt or is it merely fear?
It seems that whisper-echoes from the Northern heights resound;
Slight stirrings of the current reach the air.
The absent-minded manner in which board-directorates
Are being changed as some would like to find them
Suggests that when our Parliament a chemist-board dictates
Some Cutters will have all fixed right behind them.
Your scheme—our scheme—scheme of a hundred more,
Schemes with sense, and schemes with none—it's all
the same to-day;
The man with the head and the willing hands and the
heart sound at the core
Is the kind of man to always make it pay—pay—pay.

SPECTACLE MAKERS' COMPANY.

Sir Reginald Hanson is to be congratulated on the interest he is taking in the examination-scheme of the Company of which he is Master. He has told the "pure" opticians very plainly that he is not going to pander to them and try to make the scheme exclusively for opticians. He reminds them that the Company will admit any competent person who satisfies their examiners, and he will not in the slightest try to make the scheme exclusive. In reference to Sir Reginald's speech before the students, in which he informed the candidates that their chief object was to attain mechanical proficiency, the *Lancet* thinks he might have gone a step further, and told them that the real practice of the optician is accurately to carry out the directions of the ophthalmic surgeon. This, we take it, means that the optician is not to test the sight. Our contemporary would apparently have everybody who requires visual aids consult an ophthalmic surgeon, which would no doubt be an ideal arrangement. Of the impracticability of such a scheme it is unnecessary to speak, and everyone must agree that the next best thing for such persons to do is to go to an intelligent optician. Why cannot certain members of the medical profession recognise this?

Trade Notes.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BLOTTER.—Mr. J. E. Lockyer, wholesale photographic chemist, 87 Evelyn Street, Deptford, S.E., is sending out to his customers a neat calendar blotter. The cover of the blotter bears a photograph which testifies to the good qualities of the several Lockyer specialities used in its preparation.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS AND STOCKTAKING.—Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited), of Southwark, S.E., intimate by means of a striking note in our advertisement pages this week that their places of business will be closed on Christmas-day and Boxing-day for holidays. Business will be carried on as usual on December 27, and the premises will again be closed for the rest of the last week of the year for stock-taking purposes.

DAISY'S LATEST.—Daisy (Limited) have inserted a coupon in each copy of the *British Almanac* entitling the purchaser to a free 7½d. box of Daisy powers on applying to chemists. These coupons should be forwarded to the firm before July 1, 1900, and 7½d. will be refunded to the chemist. The company also intimate that they are taking space in several popular penny papers offering a 4d. packet of Daisy free to all who send the coupon. Our subscribers should note these facts with a view to business.

"MERCK'S MANUAL."—For some time we have had as one of our desk-books a copy of this exceedingly useful manual. It is really a pocket-book, printed on thin paper, and comprises (1) materia medica (98 pages), in which the properties, solubilities, uses, and doses of medicines new and old are given; (2) therapeutic indications (116), an exceedingly concise disease conspectus; and (3) a classification of medicines (19 pages). Any of our subscribers can get a free copy on application to Mr. E. Merck, 16 Jewry Street, London, E.C. No one should miss this chance.

BYNO-GLYCEROPHOSPHATES.—Since the introduction of glycerophosphates by French physicians two or three years ago they have more than justified predictions as to their utility in therapeutics, especially in the treatment of wasting diseases. We may recall the fact that glycerophosphoric acid is a compound in which the glyceryl radicle replaces the hydrogen in the phosphoric-acid molecule, and this compound is assimilated by the human system better than any other phosphoric compound. Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited) have introduced a bynin compound containing in each fl. oz. 2 gr. each of glycerophosphates of iron, potash, magnesia, and soda, and 4 gr. of the glycerophosphate of lime. It is an excellent and elegant preparation.

Winter Session.

Advance notices of the meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." Secretaries are requested to send such notices not later than Wednesdays of the weeks before the meetings are to be held.

The Wellcome Institute.

ON Friday evening, December 1, the first session of the Scientific and Literary Section of the Wellcome Club and Institute was opened in the Assembly Room in the grounds of the Institute at Dartford. It is unnecessary for us to tell again what this Institute is, especially as the delivery of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY during the past week enables those of our subscribers who do not know what it is to learn all about it from page 231. Culture, in the best sense of the word, is one of the supports of the social platform which Mr. Wellcome has raised for his employés, and to inaugurate the Scientific and Literary Section he had obtained the assistance of Mr. E. M. Holmes, F.L.S., President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, who delivered a lecture upon

THE WONDERS OF VEGETABLE LIFE.

It was a miserably wet night, nevertheless nearly 150 of the members of the Institute were present, chiefly ladies from the B., W. & Co. factory. Several members of the staff from the City departments also were there.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Wellcome, the chair was occupied by Dr. F. B. POWER, who introduced Mr. Holmes. In so doing Dr. Power paid a tribute of affection and regard to the memory of the late Mr. Lloyd Williams, who, he remarked, if he had been endowed with a degree of physical strength equal to his largeness of heart and broad sympathies, would have been one of the most eager to further the interests of this section of the Institute's work. What he had done remained with them to the imperishable memory of a noble manhood. Dr. Power considered that the course of lectures now starting was only second in importance to the Club itself, and he impressed upon his fellow-workers the advantages of mental culture, quoting in this connection Sir Andrew Noble's recent advice to engineering students. Dr. Power then referred to the distinguished position that Mr. Holmes, the lecturer, had taken in pharmaceutical science, and to his work as curator of the Pharmaceutical Museum, which had earned for him not only distinction abroad, but affection at home, for he was known as "the students' friend."

Mr. HOLMES on rising was received with hearty applause. The lecture was a delightful talk before the lantern-screen upon a series of excellent pictures thrown thereon. He began by showing a slide of bits of protoplasm (*Amœba*), and at once caught the interest of his audience by the homely way in which he told how the low organism, *Leocarpus fragilis*, pushes out legs for itself, and makes a stomach for itself when it needs or gets food; then he showed the next stage in the life of *Leocarpus*, when its little masses unite to form a group. After a short time protuberances appear on its surface and short stalks arise, each crowned by a little oval head; the outer layer dries into a skin, and the inner portions become resolved into a powder consisting of spores supported by a network of threads. All this occurs within ten hours, and the whole thing is the slime-like substance which we often see on the trunks of trees. It is scarcely possible to follow Mr. Holmes slide by slide, with the remarks whereby he brought clearly to the minds of the uninitiated that in life from its lowest to its highest stages certain fundamental elements or principles are involved, and that in the most complicated organism the very processes which go on in the humble *Leocarpus* are never absent. The following are some tit-bits of information from the lecture:—

Speaking of diatoms, he said the polishing-powders for metals known as Tripoli and rottenstone consist chiefly of diatoms. The polishing-slate of Bohemia, and the Turkey stone used for sharpening edged tools, seem to be composed of diatoms which have been consolidated by heat, chiefly of the genus *Navicula*. The fine white kieselguhr recently introduced is from a fresh-

water lake deposit in Australia. It contains about twenty-one species of diatoms. These beautifully sculptured shells are composed of flint. An interesting story is related about one of these minute plants, named *Arachnoidiscus japonicus*. A few years ago an analyst was required to examine some red-currant jelly which was sold at an apparently impossible price in France. On examination under the microscope for any structure that might give a clue to its composition, this beautiful diatom was found. As it never grows on red-currant trees, but on seaweeds in Japan, it at once gave a clue to the cheapening of the jelly—agar-agar.

In the course of the remarks on bacteria, Mr. Holmes showed excellent slides of the bacteria which assist farmers by helping to fertilise the soil. He showed fresh specimens of roots with swellings containing the bacteria, which have the power of taking nitrogen from the air and turning it into nitrogenous compounds fit for plant-food, or, as in other cases, the organism turns urea into ammonia, and another bacterium steps in to convert ammonia into nitrite. Sour milk is caused by the action of bacteria, the ferment secreted by one of which produces a substance (diazobenzene) to which the diarrhoea peculiar to infants is usually due.

A curious feature about yeasts is that they are occasionally found working together with bacteria. The ginger-beer plant, which looks like boiled pearl-barley, is a compound growth of a yeast (*Saccharomyces pyriformis*) and a bacterium (*B. vermiciforme*). It acts best on cane-sugar. The koumiss ferment is a combination of a yeast and a bacterium.

In describing seeds, Mr. Holmes explained how ferments are secreted in germination which turn starch into malt-sugar, and disintegrate the shells containing the starch. These are the changes that take place in producing malt, and are therefore of interest to the malt-extract maker. The size of the seed has no relation to the size of the tree: seeds of the eucalyptus-trees, some of which attain 300 feet in height, are no larger than those of mignonette, whilst that of the double cocoanut (*Lodoicea seychellarum*) weighs sometimes as much as 40 lbs., and is ten years in reaching maturity, although the tree attains only 100 feet in height.

The roots of plants exercise a selective power on the materials of the soil in which they grow. Thus the bamboo takes up so much silica from the soil that it not only can coat the surface of its stem with it, but deposits quantities of it inside its hollow joints. This deposit, under the name of "tabashir," is used in India as a medicine. How the silica is taken up in such quantities, and what is the vegetable compound in the root that exercises such a solvent power on silica, are at present unknown. A fortune would probably reward their lucky discoverer.

Mr. Holmes also spoke of roots, stems, leaves, leaf-buds, protection of leaves, flowers and their fertilisation, and the distribution of plants. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks at the conclusion of the lecture, which, by the desire of the audience, was continued for a quarter of an hour beyond the limit originally fixed for it.

Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

AT the meeting of this Section on December 4 (Mr. Otto Hehner in the chair), Mr. WATSON SMITH read a note on the

METHYL ESTER OF ANTHRANILIC ACID

which belongs to the orthobenzamido group, and has the formula—



The substance is in yellowish crystals, with a blue fluorescence, and is sold as an artificial oil of neroli. The crystals are soluble in alcohol and ether, but only sparingly in water. Mr. Smith commented at considerable length on the curious manner in which the introduction of different radicles into a molecule produces bodies having colour, taste, or smell, according to the nature of the radicle.

Dr. LEWKOVITCH asked if the substance was not already well known as artificial oil of neroli, and

Dr. F. B. POWER said it was not a new body. Schimmel prepared the methyl ester of anthranilic acid some six years ago, and at that time noted that natural oil of neroli showed a blue fluorescence when poured on to water, due to the presence of the methyl ester of anthranilic acid.

Mr. SHERARD COWPER-COLES's paper on the

FIREPROOFING OF TIMBER

was then read. The author began by showing the difference between summer and winter hewn timber. Winter-hewn

timber contains starch in the cells, and is, in consequence, more water-resistant. Winter-hewn timber is on this account used exclusively for the staves of water-barrels. The amount of water in green wood was as much as 45 per cent., which fell after storing for some years to 15 or 20 per cent. The true sp. gr. of wood the author finds to be 1.56, this being its sp. gr. when dried and free from imbibed air. The nine conditions which the author contends are required of any process of fireproofing wood were laid down, the conditions including such requirements as that the process shall not discolour the wood, the salts used shall not wash out or deliquesce, and that the process shall be tolerably cheap. The various processes recommended at different times were then mentioned, such as (1) iron sulphate followed by calcium chloride; (2) zinc or copper sulphate followed by barium chloride; (3) zinc chloride and glue followed by tannin; (4) calcium bisulphite and milk of lime followed by exposure to air to effect oxidation into calcium sulphate; (5) impregnation with ammonium phosphate or sulphate; (6) potassium cyanide and asbestos paint; (7) a mixture of zinc sulphate, potash, alum, manganese oxide, sulphuric acid, and water; (8) a mixture of ammonium chloride, microcosmic salt, and a soluble borate.

No data were given as to the utility or otherwise of these processes, but the ammonium-phosphate method was understood to be one of the most useful.

Dr. RIDEAL was interested to hear of the conclusions of the author as to the sp. gr. of wood, and mentioned that in the Soudan there were huge forests of ebony and acacia which could not be exported, as the wood would not float. The same speaker said that the sapwood of the American hickory was now being stained so that it resembled the heartwood, which was the only kind of use for making furniture, and articles made with the stained sapwood fell to pieces after a short while. The most non-inflammable wood was heather-wood used for briar-pipes.

Mr. Watson Smith said that at the Manchester Jubilee Exhibition the light articles and matchwood were saturated with a solution of sal ammoniac and boric acid, and although there were at least ten outbreaks of fire in the course of the exhibition no serious damage was done.

Mr. HOOPER wanted to know if the author used ammonium phosphate, as it was not made clear in his paper.

Mr. TYLER asked if the wood had stood the test of an actual conflagration.

Another member did not think that ammonium phosphate would last; it would become fungoid, and, moreover, would corrode metal fittings.

Mr. REID inquired if the wood had been analysed before and after treatment, as it seemed to him to have shrunk and been partly carbonised after fireproofing.

Another member thought that the crystals would burst the cells and make the wood weak.

The AUTHOR, in reply, said it was true that ammonium phosphate did corrode metal fittings; it was also soluble, and so not suited for shipbuilding. Alkaline processes made the wood brittle, acids charred it, and wood impregnated with calcium sulphate turned the edge of tools. The wood was not so strong after fireproofing as before. He (the speaker) had not yet evolved a perfect process, and there were points about his present process which he preferred to keep secret.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

At the meeting held at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on December 1, Dr. Grossmann presiding, Mr. E. POWELL again brought up the subject of the

POSITION OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS,

as shown by the result of the prosecution of a number of ice-cream vendors in London, as reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He said it had been decided in a London court that analyses done by deputy, though fully qualified, were not admissible in evidence in cases of adulteration or in prosecutions by sanitary authorities. He felt that their Society ought to take notice of the fact, with a view to having the law amended in order to meet the cases of public analysts who accepted a number of appointments the duties in connection with which it was impossible for them legally to fulfil, and of the bodies which appointed them, so that

prosecutions under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, &c., might not be rendered futile in future. In reply to a question by the Chairman, Mr. POWELL quoted the facts of the case as reported in this journal September 23, page 503.

A conversation here took place between the Chairman and Mr. Powell as to the object which the latter had in view, and the CHAIRMAN stated the matter did not specially interest that Society, but the Society of Public Analysts or the Institute of Chemistry; whereupon Mr. POWELL said if they had to wait for the Institute of Chemistry to take the matter up it would be a long time.

Mr. DAVIS: I do not quite agree with Mr. Powell. I think if a public analyst signs a certificate he ought to be responsible for it. If an analysis is made by an assistant, the analyst should not sign it at all. If a public analyst has assistants, it is easy for him to give the work to them; and if they find anything wrong, they can bring it to him, and then I think it is for the public analyst to go over the matter and see if what his assistants have reported is correct or not.

Mr. GRIMSHAW held that the present position is right.

Mr. POWELL finally moved—

That the existing state of the law be brought before the notice of the Society of Chemical Industry in London, with a view of getting the law altered.

Mr. HURST seconded the motion.

Mr. SCUDDER (analyst to the Mersey and Irwell Committee): I think the law is perfectly correct.

The CHAIRMAN: As Mr. Powell has put it, the public analyst is responsible.

After some conversation Mr. POWELL altered his motion as follows:—

That this meeting disapproves of any public analyst taking office without being able to do the work himself.

Mr. HURST seconded.

Mr. SCUDDER moved, as an amendment—

That the existing law is right.

Mr. J. CARTER BELL, public analyst of Salford and elsewhere, seconded the amendment.

The amendment was carried by a large majority. It was also passed as a substantive motion.

SUGAR SYRUPS.

Dr. A. K. MILLER read some notes on the analysis of some sugar-syrups. The communication specially referred to golden syrup, and criticised a recent *Analyst* paper by Badmer, Leonard, and Smith on the same subject, particularly their method of determining the amount of water present, which erred in neglecting to note that the density of the solution of the inorganic salts in syrup is higher than the density of the sugar solution itself. Their method of estimating with Fehling's solution was also open to error. Dr. Miller (with whom Mr. Potts was associated) considered that there is as yet no satisfactory quantitative method of analysing sugar-syrups adulterated with glucose, and that until such a method has been devised analysts must be content with a qualitative test. The polarimeter undoubtedly affords the best and the simplest means for providing such a test. He added that he had merely used the term "adulteration" in the sense that syrup containing glucose, if sold under the name of "golden syrup" or "treacle," was supposed to be adulterated under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Such a mixture might, of course, be sold under any other name the manufacturer liked to give it, and from the consumer's point of view they would not say that the mixture was less wholesome than genuine golden syrup. Most of the glucose preparations were very pure products, and they certainly had the advantage of being free from the impurities always present in cane, and especially in beet, sugars.

A paper was also read by Mr. T. ASPINALL, of Bolton, on a series of experiments in the purification of sewage with liquid chlorine; but Mr. DAVIS rather discredited the value of the suggestion.

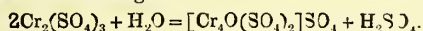
NOTTINGHAM SECTION.

At the meeting held on November 29 at the Municipal Technical College, Derby, Professor F. Stanley Kipping,

F.R.S., in the chair, a paper was read by Mr. M. R. CAVEN, B.Sc., on

THE EQUIVALENT DISPLACEMENT OF METALS FROM SALT SOLUTIONS.

After an historical sketch of the subject Mr. Caven gave particulars of experiments with the metals Mg, Zn, and Fe, displacing by their means the Cu from solutions of copper sulphate of varying strengths. Cold and hot solutions were tried. In all cases he found that the copper is not precipitated completely in the metallic state, as is generally supposed, but that a portion of it comes down as Cu_2O . The more dilute the solution the greater the amount that falls in the oxidised state; a hot solution also showing an increase over a cold solution of equal strength, the oxide precipitated being equal to 25 per cent. of the whole. No hydrogen is evolved when iron is used. The decomposition involves eight reactions. Mr. WOOD thought the paper, though scientific, of practical use. In making chrome-tanned leather, for example, if the chrome alum be dissolved in hot water the leather cannot be tanned. Dissolved in the cold the solution is purple, dissolved hot it has a green colour. Chromium salts are very complicated in their solutions, and soda solution has to be added to bring them into a critical condition for tanning. After further remarks of a complimentary and critical nature (the latter about the theory), Mr. CAVEN replied, stating, in the course of his remarks, that when a cold solution of chrome alum is heated the violet colour changes to green, the action being—



Society of Public Analysts.

AMONG the communications read at the meeting of this Society at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on December 6, was one of great pharmaceutical interest by Mr. C. G. MOORE, on

ASAFETIDA.

The B. P. requires that asafetida shall yield not less than 65 per cent. of matter soluble in alcohol (90 per cent.), and shall not yield more than 10 per cent. of ash when incinerated. The author, in conjunction with Dr. Martin, has recently examined twelve samples of the gum-resin, and found that the percentage soluble in alcohol ranged from 14 to 39 and the ash from 26 to 63. The residue consisted of sand and alabaster. It is obvious that a sample of B. P. tincture made from one of these specimens, instead of containing 12 per cent. of extractive, would only have 4 to 8 per cent., and hence a medical man in prescribing this preparation was being deceived as to its strength. The author had reason to believe that the sophistication of asafetida was intentional, as pure samples could be had, one examined giving only 7 per cent. of ash. The requirements of the B. P. were too high, unless steps could be taken to raise the standard of the commercial article.

Mr. CHATTAWAY asked if the samples examined answered to the B. P. characters. He had found asafetida in tears as required by the B. P. to give 8 per cent. of ash, and some even as low as 2 to 3 per cent.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES said that acting as referee to the B. P. Committee he had examined asafetida and found that although it was a very much mixed drug, still pure samples were obtainable. Alabaster was used as an adulterant in both heuzoin and asafetida to imitate the white tears which occurred naturally. The ash of pure asafetida he had found to be 8 per cent., but the ash of the crude often reached from 20 to 60 per cent. Whilst it was absolutely necessary that they should have pure asafetida for medicinal use, he thought that perhaps analysts could settle on a standard for the crude article, which was used for drain-testing and denaturising tea.

Mr. A. H. ALLEN could not see why the article should be diluted with such things as calcium sulphate. If he had occasion to purchase asafetida he certainly should not care to pay for 50 per cent. of calcium sulphate, and even if the price was graduated for the quality, he had no doubt a good margin of profit was left.

Mr. CRIBB said that recently he had examined some three or four samples purchased at London chemists', and found

15 to 37 per cent. of ash. He did not think, however, that there was much of the drug sold now, although in the country, under the name of "Devil's Dung," it was occasionally sold.

Mr. AITKIN said asafetida was used for rubbing on horses' bits, with the idea of increasing their lung-power.

Mr. MOORE, in reply, said if the commercial article were sold it should be on its percentage of ash the same as ores were dealt in. It was easy to make a tincture of proper strength by the simple process of standardising, so that the finished product contained 12 per cent. of total solids. He added that as far as he knew retailers were not aware of the extent of the sophistication practised with asafetida, and it was almost impossible to procure the B. P. article.

Mr. HOLMES said he believed it was solely matter of price; the best quality was an article of commerce.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THE weekly meeting was held at 73 Newman Street, on November 30. There was a counter-attraction in the School of Pharmacy's smoking-concert at the Holborn Restaurant, and only a dozen members were present when Mr. HYMANS read his paper on

THE OCCURRENCE OF SODIUM SULPHATE IN NATURE.

The author began by referring to the various forms in which sodium sulphate occurred in nature, mentioning the following as the more important minerals containing it:—

Thénardite, Na_2SO_4 .
 Merabilite, $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Glauberite, $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot \text{CaSO}_4$.
 Hauksite, $4\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$.
 Sulphobalite, $3\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{NaCl}$.
 Blödite, $\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}(\text{SO}_4) \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Aphthalite, $(\text{NaK})_2\text{SO}_4$.
 Leconteite, $(\text{Na}, \text{NH}_4, \text{K})_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Mendozite, $\text{NaAl}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Kronkite, $\text{Na}_2\text{Cu}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Ferronatronite, $\text{Na}_2\text{Fe}(\text{SO}_4)_2 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$.
 Caracalite, $\text{Pb}(\text{OH})\text{Cl} \cdot \text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$.

After speaking of the various minerals, attention was directed to the large deposits of thénardite in Spain, and, as the information given is new, we cannot do better than quote this part of the paper:—

In regard to this deposit, although its existence has been known for some time, it has only recently been measured and surveyed. It is situated in the salt-mines of Castellar, at Villa Rubiade Santiago, Toledo, Spain. The thénardite had been noticed in the old salt-workings, which date back many years, but was lost to view in consequence of a falling-in of the galleries, and has recently been re-discovered by a further falling-in.

The deposit, which is about 10 metres in thickness, exists next to the rock salt. (The arrangement of the strata was clearly shown in a diagram of a vertical section of the mine.)

The beds of rock salt are of extraordinary purity, and when ground produce an excellent crystal salt. The deposit is 17 metres thick, more than 2 kilometres long, and of an average width of 500 metres—that is to say, the quantity would be more than 15 million cubic metres.

From a cañon in the mine issues a stream of mineral water impregnated by sulphate of soda by its passage through the deposit. This stream flows into the river Tagus, which is near by, and is of sufficient strength and volume to entirely depopulate the river of fish for some distance below that point.

The following is an analysis of the mineral water by the Spanish chemist, D. Fausto Garagoza:—

	Grammes per Lit.
Sulphate of soda	106.7000
" " magnesia	0.6336
" " calcium	0.6759
Silica	0.0154
Chloride of sodium	0.2211
Oxide of iron and alumina	0.1619
Total	108.4079

The sulphate of soda contained in this water is obtained by conducting into a reservoir where the heat of the sun evaporates the liquid, and almost chemically pure sulphate crystallises out. This is at present consumed by a soap-factory at Aranjinez.

The thénardite deposit, as mentioned before, is 10 metres in thickness, and there has actually been measured of it more than two million tons, and it is believed that at least double that quantity remains unmeasured.

The following is an analysis by Garagoza:—

Sulphate of soda	...	...	...	97.649
" " calcium	...	...	...	0.639
" " magnesia	...	...	...	0.576
Chloride of sodium	...	...	...	0.147
Oxide of iron and alumina	...	...	...	0.211
Silica (soluble)	...	...	...	0.014
Insoluble matter and loss	...	...	...	1.314

An analysis recently made of another sample from the deposit showed over 99 per cent. of sulphate.

It is proposed to utilise this unmeasured deposit of practically pure sulphate of soda in the manufacture of carbonate and caustic soda, which should prove commercially very profitable, as coal, wood, and carbonate of lime are all plentiful in the district. The quality of the sulphate is also excellent for glass-making.

This deposit of thénardite will be the first in Europe to be turned to commercial advantage in the manufacture of chemical products.

Mr. GAMBLE congratulated the author on his paper. It was interesting to know the origin of the deposits of these salts. Mr. Hymans had mentioned a mineral-water spring in the same region in Spain, and presumably Rubinat water, which contained a large quantity of sulphate of soda, rose from a similar deposit. He thought the paper reflected great credit on Mr. Hymans and the Association.

A short discussion followed of a speculative character on the nature of the blue coloration and efflorescence observed in the specimens exhibited, in which Messrs. FOTHERGILL, STROTHER, MOORE, and GAMBLE took part, and the meeting shortly afterwards adjourned.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association.

At a meeting of this Association held in the Natural History Lecture-theatre at Owens College on December 6, Professor F. E. WEISS gave a lecture on "The Way Plants Protect Themselves." Mr. G. S. Woolley, the President of the Association, occupied the chair. The lecture, which was illustrated with limelight views, was interesting and instructive, and was much appreciated by those present. The thanks of the assembly were accorded to the Professor at the close.

Glasgow Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

At a meeting held on December 1, Mr. J. P. Gilmour (President) in the chair, Mr. J. GRANT ANDREW, M.B., C.M., delivered an address on

AMBROSE PARÉ AND HIS TIMES.

After a brief sketch of Paré's contemporary history, the lecturer told how Paré started life as a barber-surgeon and afterwards became an army surgeon. After leaving the army Paré's ability was recognised, and he was elected a member of the Faculty of Physicians. His ideas were somewhat in advance of those of his colleagues, with the result that there were frequently wordy wars between them. One notable dispute he had in regard to the dressing of gunshot-wounds. The recognised method of treatment at that time was to pour boiling oil on the wound or else to cauterise it. Paré held that a much better mode of treatment was to cleanse the wound and draw it together by means of ligatures, and published a work in support of his views. The lecturer read a number of interesting and amusing extracts from Paré's works, showing the change that has come over pharmacy since the sixteenth century. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded the lecturer.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

At the last meeting of this Association, on November 22, Mr. W. B. COWIE explained and demonstrated practically the various methods of determining vapour-densities, and also gave a practical demonstration of the volumetric composition of water.

In 1893 Fiji imported drugs to the value of 2,805*l.* against 2,467*l.* in 1897; soap, 637*l.* against 714*l.*; and oils, 6,591*l.* against 6,227*l.* The exports included vanilla valued at 600*l.*

Festivities.

CRICKETERS DINE.

The annual dinner of the Davy Hill's Cricket Club was held on December 2, at the London Tavern, Mr. C. A. HILL presiding. Justice having been done to an excellent dinner, and the usual toasts disposed of, Mr. F. Collins gave "The Club," and Mr. R. Aird "The Firm," both of which were well received. In the course of the evening the prizes for the season 1899 were presented by the Chairman to Messrs. T. Sibley, E. Sibley and E. Dellar, and a phonographic exhibition was given. Songs and recitations (including the inevitable "Absent-minded Beggar" followed by a collection) by Messrs. Arnold, Lewis, H. Allen and others wound up a very enjoyable evening.

PHARMACEUTICAL FOOTBALL SMOKER.

The annual smoking-concert organised by the Pharmaceutical Football and Cricket Club took place in the Crown Room, Holborn Restaurant, W.C., on November 30. Mr. William Martindale occupied the chair, and he was supported by Messrs. Hills, Allen, and Warren, and Professors Collie, Green, and Greenish.

A good programme of music was gone through, including songs by Mr. Will Bentley, Mr. Butt Norton, Mr. Dearth, and Mr. Harry Hall. Mr. Fred Russell gave a ventriloquial entertainment, and with Mr. Graham gave a humorous sketch and duet.

The Chairman, in passing round cigars, hoped that the decision in the nicotine case which had been heard that day in the Lord Mayor's Court would not prevent the gentlemen present accepting them.

Mr. Morley-Taylor recited "The Absent-Minded Beggar," and at the collection, which took place just after, 6*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* was obtained for the Widows and Orphans Fund.

SUNDERLAND CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual dinner of the Sunderland Chemists' Association was held at the Grand Hotel on November 29. Mr. Tom Walton (Vice-President) occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. G. P. Fairman (President), J. Mitchinson (Treasurer), Robt. H. Bell (Secretary), the Mayor, Alderman Dix, Alderman John Harrison, Dr. Scurfield, and over thirty others, including half-a-dozen members of the Newcastle Chemists' Association.

After the usual toasts by the Chairman,

Mr. M. Bartram proposed that of "The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain," dealing with it mainly from an historical point of view. He also emphasised the good derived from the Benevolent Fund, and urged its support.

Mr. Alderman J. Harrison, in response, dealt with the subject of company-pharmacy. He advocated equality of opportunity, then equality qualification and equality of responsibility. The coming Session, however, was not propitious for the introduction of a Bill into Parliament, as the more important war matters would interfere, and Government might go to the country after a satisfactory settlement. They, however, might still live in hope.

Mr. Robinson gave the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation," for whom Alderman Dix responded.

The other toasts were "The Sunderland and Kindred Associations," given by Dr. Scurfield, and responded to by Mr. Kerse (Treasurer, Newcastle Association) and Mr. Mitchinson; "The Visitors," given by Mr. Charles Rankin, and responded to by Mr. Gilderdale, of Newcastle. A splendid programme of songs, conjuring, and recitations was given, including Kipling's "The Absent-minded Beggar," after which a handsome collection was handed to the Mayor's Town Reservists' Fund.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL AND HYGIENIC EXHIBITORS' ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual dinner of this Association (formed for the purpose of bringing before the medical profession the newest productions in drugs, surgical instruments, foods, &c.) was held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, W., on December 2, Mr. F. Weiss in the chair. Amongst the firms represented at the dinner were Messrs. Ingram & Royle, J.

Weiss & Co., Newton, Chambers & Co. (Limited), Idris & Co. (Limited), Camwal, and many others. The dinner was excellently served, and one of the features was an illustrated programme by the well-known artist in feline subjects Mr. Louis Wain, who was present.

The Chairman, in giving the toast of "The Association," complimented the committee on the way they had stuck to each other in successfully bringing the affairs of the Association to an excellent standing. They had now had three exhibitions, each one more successful than the preceding one. At the last exhibition in the Queen's Hall 7,200 visitors passed the turnstiles, and of these a great many were medical men from all parts of the country. It was evident, he thought, that this kind of exhibition which they had instituted was called for and desired, as it afforded an opportunity for manufacturers of drugs and surgical instruments and allied articles to bring their goods directly before the members of the medical profession. Last year the whole of the spaces for stands were taken, and already applications have been made for more than half the available spaces for next year, although the Association have not yet sent out a circular. (Applause)

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. Albert Cooper, in proposing "The health of the Officers," said the Association was to be congratulated on having such gentlemen to look after its interests. The success of the Association was a clear proof of the way they had performed their duties. His own firm found that the number of inquiries from medical men regarding their own goods exhibited had doubled each year. That was sufficient stimulus for a firm to go on showing, and was also a proof that the Association was appreciated by the profession.

The toast was well received, and replied to by Mr. F. J. Rebman (Hon. Treasurer) and Mr. Blau (Hon. Secretary), who also made an appeal on behalf of the war fund, resulting in the collection of 10*l*.

Mr. Louis Wain responded for the visitors, and "The Press" having been toasted, the entertainment sped along, with the help of music and song and recitation, till a late hour.

During the evening Mr. Blan, on behalf of the Association, presented Mr. E. Belcher, the Hon. Auditor, with a piece of plate as a token of thanks and esteem.

Trade-Marks Applied for.

Anyone who objects to the registration of a trade-mark must address the Comptroller-General, Patent Office, Chancery Lane, W.C., within a month of the date of publication.

When "no claim" is mentioned in the subjoined abstracts, this implies "no claim for the exclusive use of the word" in inverted commas.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 8, 1899.)

"GLYKOLAINE" and "GLYKOLAINE BINSCE" (no claim for "Glycol"); for pharmaceutical granules. By Maurice Robin, 13 Rue de Poissy, Paris. 225,463, 225,464.

"THORLEY'S POULTRY-SPICE," and illustration (essential particular is the device); for poultry-spice. By J. Thorley, 4 and 6 All Saints Street, King's Cross, N. 225,366.

"CARNIGEN" (no claim for "Carni"); for meat-powder. By La Société Anonyme Ox Beef, 14 Avenue du Boulevard, Brussels. 225,682.

"TIGER"; for saccharin. By the Anglo-Continental Chemical-works (Limited), 1 and 2 Rangoon Street, E.C. 226,079.

"WARMENE" and "FIREBRAND" (no claim for "Warm"); for mineral and aerated waters. By W. Meadowcroft & Son (Limited), 24 Regent Street, Blackburn. 226,217, 226,223.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," November 15, 1899.)

"OZOTYPE"; for photographic chemicals, &c. By T. Manly, 140 Haverstock Hill, London. 226,215.

Device of sheep with starling; for chemical substances. By Ness & Co., Church Row, Darlington. 225,637.

"ASPIRIN"; for pharmaceutical product. By Friedrich Bayer & Co., Königsstrasse 27, Elberfeld, Germany. 225,555.

"BULRUSH"; for chemical substances. By T. Hedley & Co. (Limited), City Soap-works, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 225,555.

Company=pharmacy.

A FURTHER batch of reports reaches us on this subject this week. Mr. James Cocks, Hon. Secretary of the Federation, writes that, up to December 3, seventy-five replies to the Federation questions had been received. An analysis of these shows that fifty Associations were in favour of protecting chemists' titles and making it illegal for companies of unregistered persons to keep open shop for the sale of poisons (1); eleven would apply for protection of titles only (2); while fifteen were of opinion that all the directors of a company should be qualified (3). Only three considered the qualification of the managing director sufficient (4), and four voted for a qualified manager or assistant, whose name should appear on the labels (5). Of the foregoing seven voted for suggestions No. 1 and No. 3, and one voted for Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 5. Seven, for various reasons, did not adopt any resolution. These results were submitted by the Executive to the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday for their consideration. As a result of this energetic action a few more Associations have joined the Federation and three new Associations have been formed. The following is a detailed list of Associations and towns, showing the suggestions of which they are in favour:—

First.—Inverness, Reading, Hertford, Linlithgow, Rothesay, Carlisle, Ripon, Swansea, Forfarshire, Blackpool, North Staffordshire, Preston, Great Yarmouth, Motherwell, Burton-on-Trent, Swindon, Scarborough, Plymouth, Streatham, Ely, Falkirk, Shipley, Leamington, St. Andrews (Fife), Salisbury, Kingston-on-Thames, Darwen, Tunbridge, Rochdale, Sheffield, Liverpool, Bristol, Dover, Wrexham, Wimbledon, Workington, Grimsby, Manchester, Bridlington, Birkenhead, Wolverhampton, Keith, Dudley, Lewes.

Second.—Stockport, Weston-super-Mare, Bury.

Third.—Newcastle, Lincoln, Bradford, Chester, Midland Association, Norwich.

Fourth.—Abingdon. Edinburgh considers that Nos. 1, 2, and 3 should be dealt with in a new Pharmacy Bill.

Fifth.—None.

First and Third.—Halifax, Burnley, Lichfield, Tewkesbury, Colchester, Galashiels, Stalybridge.

Second and Third.—Hitchin, Spalding, Derby.

Harwich supports 1, 2, 4, and 5; Ilkley supports 2, 4, and 5; Dartford 2 and 5.

Scarborough.

A meeting of this Association, held on November 28, passed a resolution in favour of suggestion No. 1.

Linlithgow.

The chemists of the county of Linlithgow have sent a letter to the Pharmaceutical Council expressing their approval of suggestion No. 1. They urge the Society "to take immediate steps with the object of having a clause inserted in the Companies Bill which will place every member of a company on the same footing as to responsibility, and have the acts of a company treated as the acts of an individual, or until the Pharmacy Act, 1868, has been amended in that direction."

Norwich.

At a gathering of chemists in the Royal Hotel on November 30, Mr. Betts, speaking on this question, said Parliament would never restore the ante-company condition of things, and it would be a waste of time to try to persuade it. He thought, however, that companies might be regulated. The following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting is of opinion that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society should make a recommendation to the Lord Chancellor to amend the Company Acts on the following lines:—

That no company of persons not registered under the Pharmacy Acts shall keep open shop for the sale of poisons unless such company shall be controlled by a director or directors registered under the Pharmacy Acts and holding a reasonable proportion of the shares in such company; that no company, unless controlled by a director or directors qualified as above, shall use chemists' titles; and that limited liability companies authorised as above to keep open shop for the sale of poisons shall cause the name of the manager of each shop or place of business where poison is sold to prominently appear in or on such place of business, or on the labels on all poisons sold.

Cambridge.

The members of the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association met at the Bull Hotel on the evening of December 1 to discuss the company proposals. Mr. Alderman Deck presided, and the discussion was opened by Mr. A. Sidney Campkin, J.P., who referred to what the Law and Parliamentary Committee of the Pharmaceutical Council had recommended, and the result of discussion in the Council on November 1. Mr. Campkin supported the contentions then made by Mr. S. R. Atkins, and strongly deprecated the suggestion that companies should have directors qualified under the Pharmacy Act. He would that there should be no legislation at all rather than that they should temporise with the matter in the way suggested by those who formed the majority of the Pharmaceutical Council. Mr. Campkin concluded a long speech by moving a resolution supporting the No. 1 principle of the Federation, and was seconded by Mr. Cook. Mr. Addison said that cutting was at the bottom of the whole trouble, and if they were freed from that by the companies there would still be cutting amongst pharmacists themselves. He thought it would be difficult to persuade Parliament in the direction aimed at by the motion, and he certainly thought that the protection of titles would not do the good that was imagined, for the public would still go to drug-stores. Referring to the Pharmacy Act, Mr. Addison said that it did not go far enough, seeing that it dealt only with the sale of poisons. What they wanted was an Act that would regulate the practice of pharmacy in the same way as dentistry, medicine, and veterinary surgery are protected. The Chairman and Mr. Cook having spoken briefly, Mr. White continued the discussion, urging the necessity of maintaining the dignity of the practice of pharmacy. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

In the Midlands.

The Midland Pharmaceutical Association met at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on December 1, the President (Mr. Jeffrey Poole) in the chair. The Federation suggestions were discussed, and letters were read from Messrs. J. Spilsbury and J. T. Cattell (Knowle) in favour of the protection of titles and qualification.

Mr. J. T. Barratt (Leamington) opened the debate. He could not pin his faith to any one of the Federation suggestions. He was surprised at the action of the Pharmaceutical Council at the last meeting. The majority of the Council had attempted to sell their birthright. What they had to fight for was an amendment of the Act. Was it likely they would make chemists and druggists in the future if they legalised companies? To attempt to solve the difficulty on the lines Mr. Glyn-Jones suggested was ridiculous, and it was absurd to ask that every director of a company should be qualified. Besides, such a thing was impossible. Qualified managership was equally absurd.

Mr. Chas. Thompson expressed his entire agreement with Mr. Barratt. No pharmacist would have any difficulty in persuading any member of the House of Commons that the chemist had justice and right on his side. They ought not to be asked to surrender anything which was given them under the 1868 Act.

Mr. Wakefield agreed in theory with the arguments propounded by these speakers, but admonished them that it was no use wasting time in crying for the moon and aiming at the impossible. What they were contending for was an alteration of the Companies Act, not of the Pharmacy Act, and they must put forward something which would be likely to be accepted by the Government. They ought to contend for pharmacy for the pharmacist, whether individually or in the way of companies. He approved of a qualified directorate.

Mr. Harries thought the suggestions of Mr. Glyn-Jones practical and sound, and, unlike other schemes, there was a chance of getting them accepted.

Mr. T. Barclay said if the speeches of Mr. Barratt and Mr. Thompson had been delivered some years ago he could have understood them. At one time it had been possible to prevent company-trading; now it was impossible, and accordingly the best to be done was to regulate companies. If Mr. Carteighe had done then what he was doing now, there would have been some sense in it. The Council were beaten in 1880, and instead of going to Parliament and through the

medical profession to the public, they allowed the thing to drift. They were afraid. He quite agreed that the directors of a company should be qualified. There were many vested interests now to contend against. Many members of the House of Commons and of the Lords were interested in the companies. It was no use kicking against the pricks; they had to make the best of a bad job. The Pharmacy Act was never intended to allow companies to trade as retail chemists. He did his utmost at the proper time to put a stop to it, but his was like a voice crying in the wilderness. The men who had the power would not come forward then—they were afraid of being beaten. It was a cowardly business, and now that it was impossible they were very brave in shouting to put this down. In the present disorganised state of pharmacy it was not possible to sweep away the vested interests now thoroughly established: they might as well try to sweep back the Atlantic. He thought the following resolution, drafted by the Chairman, would go far to meet the case:—

That the Council be asked to draft a clause providing that companies shall not use our titles, and shall only carry on the business of chemist and druggist provided the business is under the control of qualified directors, whose names shall be conspicuously displayed in some prominent position in the pharmacy, and appear on all labels or other printed matter used in the business.

He did not think they would get all this, but it was something to fight for.

The President, who spoke as a convert to the views of Mr. Glyn-Jones, formally proposed the resolution. For the last twenty years, he said, they had been attempting the impossible. Mr. Carteighe had been trying for fourteen years to attain his ideal, but he had absolutely failed, so far as the curtailment of company-pharmacy was concerned. It had been suggested that to agree to the regulation of company-pharmacy was a sign of weakness of knee, but his opinion was that if pharmacists did not now recognise that company-pharmacy had come to stay, it was weakness of the upper legion on their part.

Mr. Barclay seconded.

Mr. Barratt reiterated his contentions at great length, and proposed—

That we demand of the Pharmaceutical Society that they shall ask of Parliament, through the Lord Chancellor, that in every sense under the Pharmacy Act, 1868, the word person should also read persons, and that persons should be liable to the same law as that person.

And if this was carried, he would further add—

We propose that the Pharmaceutical Society should demand that the same rights be granted to them as had already been granted to the Medical Council and the Dental Society—viz., the right to strike off the register the name of any person who acts as a cover to any unqualified person or persons.

Mr. Perry seconded.

The President's resolution was carried by 10 votes to 7, whereupon Mr. Barratt remarked tragically that they "had cut the ground from their birthright."

Tunbridge.

The Tunbridge Wells and District Chemists' Association met on November 30, to consider the Federation suggestions. Mr. E. Dunkley presided. All the suggestions, with the exception of the first, failed to meet with approval, and, after a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was proposed by Mr. A. Nicholson and seconded by Mr. Ogle, and (with one dissenting vote) carried:—

That this meeting, in view of the fact that in 1868 Parliament deemed it necessary for the protection of the public health that chemists should pass a qualifying examination previous to registration, considers it most desirable, in the public interest and in justice to the legally qualified chemist himself, that the title of chemist should be protected (as in the case of the legal, medical, and other professions), and that it should be made illegal for companies of unregistered persons to keep open shop for the selling of poisons and dispensing of prescriptions.

In arranging for the meeting during the winter session, the following subjects, amongst others, were decided on for consideration and discussion:—(1) The formation of a local clearing-house for rare remedies. (2) The advisability of organising a better messenger-service.

Legal Reports.

The Pharmacy Act, 1868.

AT the Goole County Court on December 5, the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, through the Registrar, Mr. R. Bremridge, summoned Herbert Hare, grocer, for keeping open shop for the sale of poisons, and also for selling a poison, namely, laudanum, he not being a registered chemist and druggist. Mr. Grey, barrister, London, appeared for the plaintiffs, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Burniston. As the facts were admitted the judge gave a verdict for the plaintiffs, awarding the full penalty of 5*l.* in each of the two cases.

Poisoned-flesh (Prevention) Act.

PROTECTING THE PIGEONS.

AT Bolton Police Court on November 27, a Tnrtin innkeeper named Baxter, was summoned for laying poisoned meat in his yard. Defendant purchased a quantity of strychnine from Mr. Knott, chemist and druggist, Astley Bridge, put it on a piece of meat, and laid it under his pigeon-cote, with the object of poisoning vermin which he suspected destroyed his birds. A dog and a cat died, it was alleged, through partaking of the poisoned meat. For the defence it was urged public had no access to the yard, but the Bench imposed a fine of 10*s.* and costs.

Poisoned-grain Act.

TO SAVE THE CROPS.

AT Spittlegate Petty Sessions, Grantham, on December 2, John Newcome, chemist and farmer, of Grantham, and Thomas E. Newcome, farmer, were summoned for causing poisoned grain to be sown on land at Allington in the occupation of the accused. A police-constable gave evidence that in a field occupied by defendants he found three pigeons, a rook, two larks, and a magpie, all lying dead. Mr. Thos. Newcome admitted having placed the seed upon the land, and Mr. John Newcome, told the police-superintendent that his crops had been destroyed by the birds, and he had made a special preparation containing a solution of strychnine to destroy them. For the defence it was pleaded that the offence was committed in ignorance of the law, and the Bench fined each defendant 1*l.* and 1*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* costs.

Workmen's Compensation Acts.

AN AMOUNT INCREASED.

AT the Wandsworth County Court on November 29, Vincent Smith, a chemical-maker, made a claim against Messrs. May & Baker, manufacturing chemists, Battersea, for a weekly allowance for injuries received. In November of last year applicant was cleaning out a boiler, when a valve was turned on, causing an influx of steam, and he was severely scalded and had not been able to work since. He had received 18*s.* 4*d.* per week compensation from the respondents since the accident. His average earnings were 2*l.* per week. Eventually an order was made for 19*s.* 7*d.* per week, and costs on the higher scale were granted.

High Court Cases.

YORKSHIRE RELISH.

MR. ELLIOTT, the refreshment-contractor at the High Court, was the indignant defendant of an action brought against him by Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co., Leeds, before Mr. Justice Byrne on December 2. On his refreshment-bar were old "Yorkshire Relish" bottles contained sauce which was not Yorkshire relish, and the plaintiffs sought a perpetual injunction to restrain him, which (Mr. Sebastian for the plaintiffs, explained) he agreed to, also to pay costs and 40*s.* damages. But Mr. Elliott, who appeared in person, wished to have his say, which was to the effect that the sauce was given to him, otherwise he would not have had it,

and no intimation was given to him that proceedings were going to be taken. He wanted to warn other contractors not to accept any sauce from the plaintiffs.

Mr. Justice Byrne: This is not right. You are entitled to say, if you desire it, that you were not personally responsible for this matter—that it was the act of one of your servants. Counsel for the plaintiffs has said there is no imputation against you.

Mr. Elliott said the plaintiffs had run them into 250*l.* costs without the slightest justification.

Mr. Justice Byrne: This is irregular. You are now making an attack upon the plaintiffs and their conduct in the matter. I cannot hear that.

Mr. Elliott: I think it ought to be made very strongly.

Mr. Justice Byrne made the injunction order.

SAVONOL v. SAYOLINE.

THIS case, in which Messrs. J. C. & J. Field (Limited) and the Wagel Syndicate (Limited) are the parties, was again mentioned on December 1 to Mr. Justice Byrne, and after a discussion it was arranged that both parties should limit their expert witnesses to three on each side and dispense with pleadings.

FOSTER v. FOSTER AND MCKINLAY.

IN the Divorce Division of the High Court on December 6, Mr. Justice Gorell Barnes granted Mr. Ferdinand Green Foster, chemist and druggist, Lake Road, Portsmouth, dissolution of his marriage on the ground of his wife's adultery with James McKinlay, an engine-driver.

County Court Cases.

A QUESTION OF DELIVERY.

AT the Clerkenwell County Court on December 4, Mr. F. G. Genower, smelling-bottle and toilet-syringe maker, 30 Wynott Street, E.C., sued W. H. Hyde & Co., of 120 Wood Street, E.C., for 2*l.* 13*s.*, the value of smelling-bottles delivered. The defendants denied delivery. Plaintiff in his evidence stated that defendants had ordered the bottles in writing, and was told that if the firm were out when he took the bottles he was to leave them with the lodger upstairs. This he had done, and the lodger stated that "he would take in no more goods for old Hyde." When the invoice was sent in defendants replied that the goods had not been received. William Hyde, the defendant, in his evidence stated that he certainly had not received the goods. The gentleman who was alleged to have taken the bottles in was Mr. Myers, who was still his tenant. Plaintiff at this point was recalled by Judge Edge, Q.C., who presided, and explained that when he found defendants' premises locked a gentleman was coming down stairs who said that he was to take in any goods intended for Hyde, as "Myers had had a row with him." He gave this gentleman the goods. Defendant now said that he never thought of inquiring at the attic, and the Judge remarked that for anything he knew the goods might still be there. He accordingly gave judgment for the plaintiff.

AN OLD-AGE PENSION WANTED.

A MAN named Branister, said to be a chemist's assistant, was sued at Clerkenwell on December 1 for a small debt. His wife answered the summons, explaining that her husband was ill; and the following conversation took place between Judge Edge and her:—

Mrs. Branister said that her husband had been an assistant in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Dover, and several in Wales which I cannot remember.

His Honour: Is he a fully qualified chemist?

The Wife: It was not necessary that he should be—he was only an assistant.

His Honour: And won't any of the old firms re-engage him?

The Wife: I expect, as a matter of fact, that they would if he could do the work; but he is really too old and feeble. When he does leave his bed it is as much as he could do to crawl across the road. He would work if he possibly could. He was never lazy, and has held some of the finest appointments.

His Honour: Chemists' assistants do very well as a rule, do they not?

The Wife: He used to do very fairly, but what he saved has all had to go to keep us now he cannot work.

The Judge remarked that this was a "too-old-at-forty"

case, and, under the circumstances, declined to make any order at all.

OFFERED TO PAY.

IN the Westminster County Court on December 5 the case of *Como v. Preston* was heard, in which the plaintiff sought to enforce payment of a judgment-debt in respect of goods supplied to the defendant, a Camden Town chemist. Debtor did not appear, but it was stated that he had offered to pay 1*l.* a month, and an order was made accordingly, subject to committal in default.

ELECTRIC LIGHT OWING.

IN the Westminster County Court on December 5, the London Electrical Supply Corporation sought for the committal of a chemist named Bntler, formerly carrying on business at New Oxford Street, for non-payment of a judgment-debt in respect of electric light supplied. Defendant did not appear, so an order was made for payment in fourteen days, subject to committal to Holloway for twelve days in default.

Merchandise-marks Act.

CAMPHORATED OIL.

AT the Pontypool Police Court on December 2, Messrs. Bell, Sons & Co. (Limited), Liverpool, wholesale drug-merchants, were charged with applying a false trade description to a bottle which was sold by them as genuine camphorated oil to Thomas Evans, grocer, Six Bells. Mr. Lyndon Moore, who prosecuted, said although the firm pleaded guilty his instructions were to press the charge. The firm had declined to interfere in the slightest degree when a retail-dealer, to whom they had supplied goods, was prosecuted. The firm had been proceeded against at various courts. On July 13, 1899, at Kingston-on-Thames, they were fined 5*l.* for camphorated oil; on September 25, at Swindon, they were fined 10*l.* and 11*l.* 14*s.* costs for selling an adulterated article, and 1*l.* and 6*l.* 9*s.* costs for camphorated oil; and on July 5, at Durham, they were fined 20*l.* Mr. Thompson, county analyst, said that the sample was 75 per cent. deficient in camphor. In addition, the oil used was not olive oil, but a cheaper kind.

Mr. Bythway, for the defence, said his clients purchased olive oil from the refiner, and until November, 1898, they believed it was genuine olive oil. Immediately they discovered their position they printed notices and sent them to their customers, saying that there had been a mistake in the quality, and requesting them not to sell any old stock.

Mr. Moore drew attention to the fact that this did not explain the deficiency in camphor.

Colonel Hair, Chairman of the Bench, said the Magistrates had decided to inflict a penalty of 25*l.*, and order the defendants to pay the costs, which amounted to 10*l.* 10*s.* They had been fining small retailers for offences for which in some cases they were perfectly guiltless, and it was only reasonable, when they had the right men before the Court, that they should make an example of them. The defendants were richly deserving of such a fine.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

BORIC ACID IN CREAM.

AT Westminster Police Court on November 30, Hudson Brothers (Limited), of Lindgate Hill, E.C., were summoned for selling clotted cream which contained 16 gr. of boric acid in the $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. jar. Evidence as to the injurious effect of boric acid was given by Dr. F. J. Allen, Medical Officer of Health for the Strand, and Dr. J. C. Jackson, Medical Officer of Health for Fulham. For the defence testimony as to the absolutely harmless effect of boric acid was given by Drs. B. F. Giles, E. Seton, Pattison, J. J. Marsh, E. Bryson, and other general practitioners of large experience. Professor Atfield, F.R.S., said it was a necessary thing to use some sort of harmless preservative like boric acid for clotted cream if required for commercial purposes. Cold-storage would only keep the cream for about a week in shops. The case was adjourned.

SALICYLIC ACID IN JAM.

AT Llanrwst Police Court, on December 4, a firm of grocers were summoned for selling a 2-lb. pot of raspberry-jam which

contained, according to the certificate of the county analyst, 0.024 per cent. of salicylic acid. This was characterised as an obnoxious substance injurious to health. Defendants had engaged Mr. Rose Innes for the defence, and he had brought down Dr. Thomas Bond, F.R.C.S., who gave evidence that only on the previous day he had taken 20 gr. of the acid himself, and had felt no ill effects. He considered it was absolutely harmless—in fact, it was necessary as a preservative for fruits of all kinds. He had a farm of his own and made a lot of jam, but always used rice-paper and ponred brandy over it, which prevented it becoming mouldy and rancid. Dr. Snape, professor of chemistry at Aberystwith College, said he did not regard salicylic acid as an adulterant at all; neither did Dr. Thomas or Dr. E. Hughes-Jones, of Rhyl. After a short deliberation, the Chairman of the Bench (Dr. Jones) said the Magistrates had concluded that the case was not proved, and it would therefore be dismissed. Speaking for himself, he believed the salicylic acid did more good than harm in jam—1 gr. in a pound of preserves could not possibly do any harm.

BORIC ACID AS A PRESERVATIVE.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Darling and Mr. Justice Channell, sitting as a Divisional Court in the Queen's Bench Division, on December 6, Mr. Earle applied for a rule in the nature of a mandamus calling on Mr. Lane, the Metropolitan Police Magistrate, to show cause why he should not hear and determine a summons taken out on behalf of the vestry of St. Mary, Battersea, by one of their inspectors under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act against Henry Hanson for selling milk not by nature and in substance the article demanded. It was admitted that boric acid had been added to the milk as a preservative, but the Magistrate did not say whether it was injurious or not, and adjourned the case *sine die*, declining to interfere further. The rule was granted.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re JOHN ASTON, Church View, Overton, Frodsham, Drug-dealer.

THE public examination of this debtor took place at Warrington on December 1. Particulars of the failure were given in our issue of November 25, page 878, and after being examined debtor was eventually allowed to pass.

Re R. M. HOULDSWORTH, 7 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., Company-promoter, formerly Manufacturing Chemist at Heckmondwike.

THE application of this debtor for the approval of the London Bankruptcy Court to a scheme of arrangement recently entertained by the creditors came finally before Mr. Registrar Hope last week. The scheme provided for the withdrawal of various claims and the payment of a composition of 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound on the remaining debts. The Assistant Receiver now reported that Mr. Justice Wright had recently admitted a proof of 2,000*l.* in connection with one of the debtor's promotions, with the result that the debtor was now apparently unable to comply with the terms of the scheme. A letter from the debtor's solicitor stating that his client did not intend to appear had been received, and the application was dismissed.

Deed of Arrangement.

Smith, Albert Edward Bertie, 20 Sussex Road, Pinlco, chemist. Trustee, William H. Charlton, 11 Queen Victoria Street, City, accountant. Dated, November 17; filed, November 24. Secured creditors, 320*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 450*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; estimated net assets, 380*l.* Deed of arrangement with a view to payment of a composition of 15*s.* in the pound, by eighteen monthly instalments of 12*l.* 10*s.*, secured by assignment upon trust, to realise in case of default. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Beaton, H., Turriff	20	0	0
Cadge, H., Hartest	20	0	0
City and Suburban Permanent Building Society, London	10	0	0
Idris (Limited), London	22	0	0
Parkinson & Son, London	17	0	0
Reynolds, G. A., London	11	0	0
Roberts, G., London	37	0	0
Wilkes, C. Smith, London	26	0	0

Pharmacopœial Notes.

By E. W. LUCAS, Ph.C., F.C.S.

Lamelle Homatropine.—These discs are required to contain $\frac{1}{100}$ gr. of the hydrobromide salt and to weigh about $\frac{1}{50}$ gr. This only permits $\frac{1}{100}$ gr. of basis. Experience shows that it is not possible to comply with this requirement, as $\frac{1}{100}$ gr. of colloid basis is insufficient to prevent the salt crystallising out when the film dries. Some time ago the author published a working form, but, through a clerical error the quantity of basis for 1 000 discs was given as 80 gr. instead of 180 gr. The formula should read—

Gelatin	...	...	...	30 gr.
Glycerin	...	...	...	3 gr.
Distilled water	...	...	...	150 gr.
Homatropine hydrobromide	...	...	...	10 gr.

Dissolve, and pour on to a waxed plate, so as to produce a film exactly 4 inches square. When dry, but still supple, punch out discs $\frac{1}{2}$ inch diameter.

The product is about 784 discs, the remainder of the film being wasted. Each disc will weigh rather less than $\frac{1}{50}$ gr. It may be remarked that no inconvenience has been found in using discs weighing $\frac{1}{15}$ gr., as, owing to their extreme tenuity, they soften directly they are inserted beneath the eyelid.

Paraffinum Liquidum.—The Pharmacopœia requires a sp. gr. of 0.885–0.890. As other writers have pointed out, this is much too high. The process of refining reduces the density so that it is difficult to obtain it of higher gravity than 0.880. The author has examined products from several large refineries, and finds the sp. gr. varies from 0.865 to 0.879. From a medical point of view, 0.865–0.870 is quite viscous enough for use in a spray-apparatus. As a matter of fact, the proprietary article which enjoys the greatest reputation rarely exceeds 0.865.

Trochisci Acidi Carbolic.—The tolu basis is apparently not suitable for these lozenges, black spots frequently appearing after keeping for a short time. The same basis without the tolu undergoes no change.

Unguentum Conii.—Conium ointment if kept for a short time exhibits a luxuriant growth of mould. Boric acid does not altogether prevent this. The author suggests either the addition of two drops of clove oil to each ounce or a basis composed of equal parts of wool-fat and soft paraffin. The latter is to be preferred, the conium-juice showing no tendency to come out again after standing, as it does in the official preparation.

Unguentum Hamamelidis.—This ointment is also unsatisfactory when prepared entirely with wool-fat basis. By substituting soft paraffin for a portion of the wool-fat the ointment can be preserved apparently almost indefinitely:—

Liquid extract of hamamelis	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ fl. oz.
Anhydrous wool-fat...	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Soft paraffin	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

Mix.

Liquid extract of *dry* hamamelis-leaves does not, however, represent the full medicinal value of the drug. The author therefore suggests this modification:—

Liquid extract of hamamelis	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ fl. oz.
Distilled extract of fresh hamamelis	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ fl. oz.
Anhydrous wool-fat...	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Soft paraffin	...	...	...	1 oz.

Mix.

Tinctura Rhei Comp.—This tincture is more conveniently prepared by the maceration process. The following formula yields a clear tincture of slightly higher density than that prepared by the official process:—

Rhubarb-root, whole	...	...	...	2 oz.
Cardamom-seeds, bruised	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
Coriander-fruits, bruised	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ oz.
Glycerin	...	...	...	2 fl. oz.
90-per-cent. alcohol	...	...	...	12 fl. oz.
Distilled water	...	...	...	6 fl. oz.

Soak the rhubarb in the water for twenty-four hours, bruise in a stone mortar, and add to the cardamoms and coriander in the strong alcohol. Macerate seven days, press, and add the glycerin.

Nessler's Reagent.—The pharmacopœial solution reacts with dilute ammonia solutions but slowly. The appended formula is commonly used in water-analysis, and is very much quicker, indicating, after it has been kept for a few weeks, 0.0001 gr. NH_3 per gal. at once:—

Potassium iodide	...	...	...	35 grammes
Mercuric chloride	...	...	...	13 grammes
Distilled water	...	...	...	500 grammes

Dissolve and add sufficient saturated solution of mercuric chloride to produce a faint permanent red precipitate.

Add 160 grammes sodium hydroxide dissolved in 200 grammes water; shake well, add 10 c.c. more saturated solution mercuric chloride, and make up to 1 litre with distilled water.

The following words should be added to the text: "This solution improves by keeping, and should be preserved in stoppered bottles away from the light."

Spectacle-makers' Company.

COL. T. DAVIES SEWELL, Clerk of the Company, informs us that there were sixteen chemist-candidates at the examination held last week.

The questions on the microscope and on photographic optics given to those candidates who took the full examination will be of interest to intending candidates:—

Microscope.

1. How would you measure the apparent thickness and also the magnification of a specimen by means of the microscope?
2. What is your definition of an apochromatic lens? What is a secondary spectrum?
3. Give the construction of a Ramsden eye-piece. How does it differ from a Huygenian ocular?
4. Describe the two best methods you know of localising a minute object on a slide so that it may be at once brought into view on a future occasion.
5. Describe the chief forms of fine-adjustment mechanism used with the compound microscope. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each kind?

Photographic Optics.

1. Explain how you would test a lens for flatness of field. What do you understand by the covering power of a lens, and describe how you would set to work to measure it?
2. Illustrate by simple sketches the main differences between the usual optical construction of a landscape-lens and that of a portrait-lens.
3. A negative is required to be enlarged from a quarter-plate to 12 inches by 16 inches. Deducting $\frac{1}{8}$ inch on each side of the quarter-plate negative for waste, describe how you would set about it. State the exact relative positions of the lens, negative, and screen, the lens chosen being a 6-inch rectilinear.
4. Give the usual rule for the time of exposure for stops of different diameters, and explain how this rule is arrived at. If a lens working at $f/4$ needs an exposure of $\frac{1}{100}$ second, what exposure would you give to a lens with a working aperture of $f/64$?
5. What is a "Flare spot"? What is it due to, and how can it be removed?

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Bryant, T., and Aitkins, A. J., under the style of Bryant & Aitkins, Market Buildings, Mincing Lane, E.C., foreign and colonial produce brokers.

Gazan, C. A., and Desnos, T. J. B., under the style of Jules Desnos, New Cross Road, S.E., capsule-manufacturers.

Hoyle, J., Dick, W. F., and Dick, J. A., under the style of Dick's Asbestos Company, Canning Town, E., and Finchurch Street, E.C., asbestos manufacturers and oil-refiners.

Peak, A., and Hardman, S., under the style of the Whitefield Mineral-water Company, Whitefield.

Todd, J., and Todd, G. D., under the style of J. & G. D. Todd, Selby, medical practitioners.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

RECEIVING ORDER.

Richmond, Charles Ernest, Warrington, surgeon.

ADJUDICATION.

Garner, Edward James Francis, Liverpool, late Douglas, Isle of Man, chemist and druggist.

SCOTCH FAILURE.

Whyte, George, High Street, Elgin, chemist and druggist, has granted a trust-deed for behoof of his creditors. All parties having claims against him are requested to lodge them with Stewart & Macrae, Elgin, solicitors.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters with or without a nom-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer. Querries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the section to which they apply should be strictly observed.

Chemists' Assistants' Union.

SIR,—During the summer of last year the C.A.U. was established for the promotion and protection of the interests of all assistants. At an early date a special general meeting will be held, at which a declaration of the present and future policy of the Union will be made known. As most of the deliberations of the Union take place openly it is desired that every assistant, whether qualified or not, will attend this meeting, and express his opinions on the programme of the Union. Due notice of this meeting will be published in the trade papers. It is intended to be an organisation for the general good of the trade, a centre through which assistants may not only secure suitable employment, but also masters good assistants. Its usefulness to assistants specially will be to do all that can be legitimately done to promote their advancement and the improvement of their social status. Every effort will be made by the Council to carry out as far as is possible the expressed wishes of the majority of its members. Assistants should bear in mind that the real future welfare of pharmacy is more in their hands than it is in that of the Pharmaceutical Society, who ought to safeguard our interests, but who do not do so entirely partly because of want of proper representative support. Every assistant can promote the interests of both Society and Union, as well as his own, by making known his pharmaceutical grievance—that of unfair competition, for example—to the member of Parliament in whose constituency he resides. The reduction of unjust trading is one of the objects the Union has in view. Assistants who become members will have privileges that will be proportionate to their support. Full details of the work and aims of the Union will be placed before this meeting for its acceptance. Your attention at this particular crisis in the history of pharmacy, therefore, is particularly necessary.

New departments of mutual aid will be added as we progress, and every effort will be put forward to make the Union a source of actual benefit to the whole trade, and these are designed to be self-supporting.

Steady, efficient, and reliable members may rest assured that their valuable services will never be long idle. Engagements of every kind will be available, and we shall be prepared to supply according to the demand. We do not advise our members, either qualified or unqualified, to accept service in any limited company whose only qualification is its capital, nor do we make such employment a condition of non-membership at present. Our object is, first, to become thoroughly representative of assistants throughout the kingdom, then to assist in urging the Pharmaceutical Society to make it a condition of the granting of diplomas of qualification that no recipient shall aid any such formation by his services in any position. For this purpose we intend, at the next election of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, to put forward one of our members for election.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. PICKERING.

57 High Street, Manchester Square, W.

Company-pharmacy.

SIR,—I have been eagerly watching the progress of the Chemists' Assistants' Union, and must admit that so far my expectations have not been realised. The smoking-concerts have certainly been a great success, but such things were not the primary object of the Union. The great topic of the day for chemists is company-pharmacy, and I maintain that more can be done in checking this growing evil by a well-organised union of assistants than anything else. This was regarded as

the plank in the policy of the C.A.U., and it is time that the Union faced the matter boldly. If the chemists' assistants of this country are heedless of their future prospects, and do not timely grasp the situation, we may ere long find ourselves in the bondage of company-promoters who are interested in the trade no further than profit-making goes. If "company-pharmacy" is confirmed by Act of Parliament individual interests will be swamped, and the trained pharmacists will become hewers of wood and drawers of water to fill the pockets of company-promoters. It is to be hoped that all assistants who have the welfare of the craft at heart will at once join the Union, so that in the near future we may have a meeting in London to give full expression to our views and arrange the plan of campaign to shake off the trammels of company employment, to fight for our independence and for the honour and best interests of legitimate pharmacy.

Yours truly,

HUGH LLOYD.

Walton-on-Naze.

SIR,—Correcting misstatements concerning myself would take up such time that I usually leave them to the intelligence of the readers, but "X-rayser" is so grossly unfair that I am impelled to protest. "X-rayser" knows my position on the subject under discussion, which can be put in very few words, thus: I say that there was a compact entered into by the State and myself; I fulfilled my part—viz., fitted myself for certain specified duties, the sale of poisons and the keeping open shop. I now simply ask the State to make operative that contract, and I also say that if this mere act of justice to me is pressed in its simplicity upon the Legislature we shall obtain our rights. Restitution of rights is being discussed now, and not a new Pharmacy Bill. I note with satisfaction that "X-rayser" demonstrates my contention that the circle cannot be squared. He acknowledges it "will not be impossible, but in nine cases out of ten it would be very unprofitable." Now, seriously, is the Lord Chancellor likely to think twice about a scheme which admittedly would not affect every tenth case? He asserts that the nine represent the "worst kind of company-pharmacists." I did expect that practical and capable people such as are of your staff would have known—as chemists know—that it is the tenth man—the man with the money, or the syndicate behind him—who is the evil. Let me repeat, a reasonable clause instituting a "qualified directorate" is impossible of construction. Will anyone show my assertion to be wrong?

Yours faithfully,

R. LORD GIFFORD.

Blackburn, November 28.

Dublin Apothecaries' Hall.

SIR,—In view of the persistent, malignant, but hitherto passively impotent attacks of the Royal College of Physicians on the Apothecaries' Hall, coupled with their notorious animus towards anyone connected with pharmacy, is it not time that the Pharmaceutical Society should unite with the Apothecaries' Hall to point out to the General Medical Council that the physicians' examination in pharmacy does not require the candidate to show any knowledge of the Pharmacy Act or the Poisons Act, and there is no sufficient guarantee of his fitness to practise pharmacy or to keep open shop? For my part, I have written to the Registrar of the College, enclosing my resignation of the licence in medicine which I hold. I have no wish to be associated with a body whose representative indulges in such conduct as that attributed to Dr. Atthill.

Yours truly,

J. C. MCWALTER.

19 North Earl Street, Dublin,
December 6.

Unqualified Men.

SIR,—A gentleman writes to me from a large Midland town giving the name and address of a man who is carrying on business as a pharmaceutical chemist, being neither qualified himself nor employing a qualified man. The complainant in this case can have redress by laying an information with the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, but as he has not had the courage to send his name and address to me it is hardly likely that he will be valorous enough to take the bull by the horns in this way. He might gain confidence by getting some of the other chemists in his district to act in conjunction with him. I am quite aware that there are many men carrying on business in different parts of the country who are not qualified, and it has

always appeared to me that the straight and honourable course for qualified men to pursue is to lay an information, in no secret or covert manner, but open and aboveboard.

Dumfries, December 4.

JAMES REID.

Driving without Lights.

SIR,—In your issue of November 25 you report a case in which a porter in my employ was summoned by the police, after having been warned the previous night, for driving my cart without a light. Will you, as a matter of common fairness, allow me to state that it was without my knowledge that he drove without a light, he having had instructions to borrow a lamp, and that I knew nothing of the case until I heard he had been summoned? This may appear to be a small matter, but to my mind it would be a shameful thing to give such an order as that I am reported to have given and then to decline to meet the consequences, and I shall be obliged if you will insert this correction.

Yours very truly,

Torquay, November 28.

FREDERICK MARCH

"Alas! My Poor Brother."

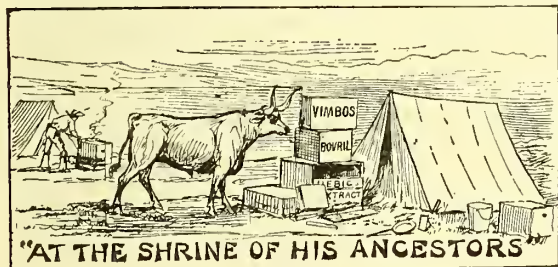
SIR,—"Xrayser," in the course of his observations and reflections in last week's issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, remarks that "'Bubbles' (as an advertisement) is far less striking than many others of unknown authorship—such as, for instance, the Bovril picture of the ox shedding a gigantic tear over the little bottle wherein his deceased brother is enshrined."

If you refer to the showcard competition you held some two years ago—I think the result was given in the issue for July 31, 1897—in which you offered a prize for the best suggestion for a pictorial advertisement, you will find that you awarded a guinea for the following:—

A rolling plain in South America; a party of settlers camping out; a tent, with some packing-cases in the foreground labelled "Bovril"; an ox sniffing at same, with the wording, "At the shrine of his ancestors."

The author of the suggestion had a rough sketch made to illustrate the idea. This he submitted to the advertising-manager of Bovril (Limited), taking the precaution first of copyrighting it. Bovril, however, did not accept the idea, and the author heard nothing further about it until he saw their present advertisement on the hoardings.

I enclose copy of sketch I copyrighted, and although the ox in it is more like a cow, still I think any impartial judge



must admit that there is a wonderful similarity in the sentiment of this sketch and the Bovril advertisement to which your contributor refers.

I am, yours, &c.,

J. C. (194/8)

[We reproduce the sketch. The introduction of Vimbos and Liebig's Extract into it was not smart business.—Ed.]

Alexandrian Senna.

SIR,—I am much interested in the subject of the paper by Professor Greenish, read at the last evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society. On referring to Stephenson and Churchill's "Medical Botany," vol. 1, art. "Cassia Senna," it appears that MM. Lassinque and H. Fennelle claim to have discovered the cathartic principle of senna, under the name "Cathartine." The process by which it was separated is also given. Many years since I operated on considerable quantities of senna by steam-pressure. One of my first experiments was evaporation of the infusion in a shallow vessel, about 5 feet by 2½. So far as concentration of the fluid went, it seemed satisfactory; but the activity of the preparation was not so. The most remarkable circumstance

was that the atmosphere seemed laden with the smell of senna, and two single ladies complained that the effect was as though they had taken a strong purgative, and that even the cat was similarly affected. It would thus appear that senna contains a volatile principle of a potent nature, or it could not affect persons living in the next house. Senna is a perishable drug. A gentleman bought 3 cwt. at a dock sale, thinking it would be an advantage to have a cheap lot. But it proved absolutely inert. A florist had the bulk: it made excellent manure, stratified with the "stercoraceous mass the stable yields"—so elegantly expressed by the poet Cowper.

I am, yours faithfully,

Kew, November 30.

R. GOODWIN MOWBRAY.

Dispensing Notes.

What is Urotropin?

SIR,—There is evidently some confusion as to what should be dispensed when hexamethylenetetramine is ordered in a prescription. According to Martindale, it is synonymous with urotropin, but the *Year-book of Pharmacy* for 1897, page 231, gives saliformine as the synonym. The latter, judging from its appearance and manner of preparation, seems a different substance from urotropin. Again, a reference to the 1896 *Year-book*, page 179, shows that the chemical name for urotropin is hexamethylenetetramide. I have been in the habit of dispensing saliformine for hexamethylenetetramine, but a local chemist told me he dispenses urotropin, giving Martindale as his authority. Which is right?

Yours faithfully,

Dublin, November 29.

J. A. WALSH.

Essential Oil in Aqueous Mixture.

SIR,—I should be glad if you can inform me the best way to dispense the following so as to make a satisfactory mixture:—

Ol. anisi	...	...	...	m 15
Tr. card. co.	...	...	...	3ss.
Aq. menth. pip.	...	...	...	3vj.
Chlorof.	...	...	...	3vj.

Ft. mist. Sig: 3j. p.r.n.

—as I found I could not dispense it unless I used 3j. of S.V.R. Is that advisable?

MENTH. (150/18.)

[The addition of S.V.R. is the best way out of the difficulty.]

Pill-Excipient Wanted.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me what is the best excipient to use for the following pills? They have a habit of crumbling just at the very last moment in rolling:—

Sodæ carb. exsic.	...	...	gr. xvj.
Pulv. zingib.	...	...	gr. xx.
Pulv. rhei	...	...	3iv.
Pulv. sapo.	...	...	3vj.
Ol. junip.	...	...	m 160

Ft. pilulæ. Div. in pil. gr. iv.

Yours, &c.,

BORAX. (172/15.)

[These pills are best made with glucose as the excipient.]

Explanation Wanted.

SIR,—Would you kindly, through the medium of your dispensing-query column, suggest the best way of dispensing the following prescription? It gives the reaction for iodine with starch mucilage:—

Syrupus ferri phosph.	...	3vj.
Syrupus ferri iodidi	...	3vj.
Quinina sulph.	...	gr. 20
Acid. sulph. dil.	...	3j.
Aque ad	...	3viij.

M., &c.

The quin. sulph. dissolved by aid of the acid was well diluted before adding the iron syrups.

Yours,

G. P. H. (179/34).

[We find this mixture to be quite clear, and after being made a few days it has not in the least changed. Were the syrups made according to the B.P., or from liquors?]

O—D

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

181/44. *H. E.*—We have not come across a sample of tr. quin. ammon. which has turned pink after being made. There is, perhaps, some impurity in the spirit, although on the occasion of a darkening of the same tincture after being made we traced it to the ammonia.

172/68 *J.*—Modern Books on Electro-Therapeutics.—See reply to "G. O."

163/33. *J. H. S.*—The letters "p.p.a." in the directions of the prescription mean "piala prius agitata"—"the bottle having been first shaken."

180/27. *Dore.*—(1) The powder seems to be powdered canella; but such queries do not come under our rules. (2) Mr. W. C. Hebden, Albany Works, Halifax, is the manufacturer of sanitary pendants. (3) Children's Powders:—

Calomel	...	...	...	144 gr.
Carmine	...	...	...	2 gr.
Sugar of milk	...	...	...	1 oz.

Mix well.

Dose: For children from to months, 2 gr.; 9 to 12 3 gr.; above 1 year, 4 gr.

170/61. *G. C.*—There are several institutions in London where practical knowledge of electric batteries can be obtained. The instruction is generally given in courses of practical electricity at such places as the Polytechnic, Regent Street, W., the City and Guilds of London Institute, and the Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell, E.C. A study of Turner's "Manual of Practical Medical Electricity," 7s. 6d. (Baillière), or Houston and Kennelly's "Electricity in Electro-Therapeutics, 5s. (Whittaker), would give you much useful information on electro-medical treatment which would be particularly useful to you as a chemist.

138/35 *C. & C.*—Composition of Portland Cement—Refer to *C. & D.*, October 28, 1899, page 723.

179/57. *C. E. T.*—Wine of Cod-liver Oil.—This may be prepared by mixing 6 oz. of "morphol" with 1 gal. of sherry. The dose is the same as for cod-liver oil. "Morphol," the body which Chapoteaut claimed to represent the active principles of cod-liver oil, is made as follows:—Shake cod-liver oil with an aqueous 5-per-cent. solution of carbonate of soda to neutralise free fatty acids, separate and dry the oil, and shake with alcohol. From 2½ to 8 per cent. of the oil, according to the colour, is soluble in alcohol, from which it is separated by distillation.

178/48. *L. E. T.*—Tea-tasting.—"Art of Tea-blending; Handbook for the Tea-trade," 3s. 6d. (Whittingham). This is the only book we are acquainted with, and it is not a recent one. The method adopted by professional tea-tasters is to pour 3½ oz. of water at 100° C. on to 43½ gr. of tea and infuse for five minutes. The taster then judges the tea by the bouquet, flavour, colour, and pungency of the infusion, these depending on the amount and quality of the volatile oil present and age and uniformity of the leaf.

182/52 *Saffron*—Colouring Egg-julep—We imagine that your egg-julep is unusually alkaline, which would account for the fading of the saffron or annatto used for colouring it. You will find that the aniline dye known as "yellow, fast-to-soap" will stand the alkali. This dye is only slightly soluble in water, but sufficient for colouring egg-julep.

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

184/15. Maker or agent for Hoede's granules of peltierine.

142/8 Who makes a filling-machine for bottling ink or similar fluids?

191/59 Makers of, or market for, violet coloured crystals of borax, or sodæ bicarb., used as a water-softener.

221/22 Makers of Vego paste (used by box-makers).

New Companies & Company News.

SYMONDS' TEA COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000l., in 1l. shares. To import, compound, and sell a herbal preparation known as "Symonds' Tea," and to carry on the business of general storekeepers, &c. W. H. Symonds is the sole director. Remuneration as fixed by the company.

ELECTROLYTIC ALKALI CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 500,000l., in 1l. shares (2,000 preference). Objects: To adopt agreements with the General Electrolytic Parent Company (Limited), and others, and to manufacture alkali, chlorine, bleaching powder, saponaceous and oleaginous substances and chemicals by electrolysis or otherwise. Full particulars of this company were given in last week's issue.

ZEBRIL FOODS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 25,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of the horse, cattle, dog, and poultry food known as "Zebрил," manufacturing chemists, &c. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification, 100l. Remuneration as fixed by the company. Registered office, Bradford District Bank Chambers, Bradford, Yorks.

WORTH'S FOOD SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of medicated-food manufacturers, bakers, biscuit-manufacturers, millers, &c. The first directors are N. J. Bloodworth (permanent director), T. E. Williams, H. Unwin, F. J. Tidmarsh, and R. L. Wood. Qualification of permanent director, 5,000 shares. Registered office, 2 Omsford Place, Cheltenham.

JOHN WILLIAMS & SONS (CARDIFF) (LIMITED).—Capital 60,000l., in 10l. shares. Objects: To take over the business of "John Williams & Sons," engineers, electrical apparatus makers, oil, colour, and chemical manufacturers, &c., of Cardiff. The first directors are R. H. Holman, R. Cory, J. B. Ferrier, L. Williams, and C. E. Williams. Remuneration not less than 250l. per annum, divisible. Registered office, 15 Queen Street, Cardiff.

WILLIAM M. FITZHUGH (LIMITED).—Capital 63,000l., in 60,000 1l. preference shares and 3,000 1s. ordinary shares. To manufacture, refine, distil, and deal in cotton-seed oil and any oleaginous substances (other than petroleum), chemicals, extracts, &c. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification, 100l. preference shares. Remuneration, 150l. each per annum. Registered office, 8 Old Jewry, E.C.

MANCHESTER OXYGEN (BRINS PATENT) COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To take over the business of a company of the same name and to carry on the business of oxygen, nitrogen, carbonic acid and carbonic oxide manufacturers, chemists, &c. The subscribers are:—Harry Thomson, 48 Matcham Road, Leytonstone, clerk; Victor W. Carlile, Torthorwald, Dorking, clerk; Alfred G. Robinson, 6 Wiltshire Road, Brixton, S.W., clerk; Alfred W. White, 69A Strathleven Road, Brixton, S.W., clerk; Percy V. Chapman, 120 Percy Road, Shepherd's Bush, W., clerk; Wm. C. Cox, 97 Mattison Road, Harringay, N., clerk, and L. E. P. Schemel, 146 Southwark Park Road, Bermondsey, S.E., clerk. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. No qualification. Remuneration 100l. each per annum. Registered office, 34 Victoria Street, S.W.

WILLIAM WHITE & SON (LIMITED).—Capital 200l. in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire the business known as "William White & Sons, Botanical Druggists," carried on at 59 and 61 Sunbridge Road, Bradford, and to carry on the business of pharmaceutical, manufacturing and general chemists and druggists, manufacturers of proprietary articles &c. The subscribers are:—A. F. White, 61 Sunbridge Road, Bradford, botanist; F. MacGillivray, 10 Thorncliffe Square, Bradford, chemist and druggist; Edith E. White, 30 Cornwall Terrace, Bradford; H. Carmichael, 30 Cornwall Terrace, Bradford, botanist; J. H. Richardson, Bank Street, Bradford, solicitor; Herbert W. White, 671 Keads Road, Bradford, surgeon; and W. J. Wood, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, solicitor. Arthur F. White is the first managing director, with power to appoint or remove other directors.

G. E. BRIDGE & Co (LIMITED).—Capital 7,000*l.* in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at the Firs Pharmacy, 128 and 130 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, as G. E. Bridge & Co., and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, anatomical, surgical and general boot and shoe manufacturers, dealers and factors, &c. The subscribers are:—G. E. Bridge, 120 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, chemist and druggist; H. Keene, 128 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, surgical appliance maker; H. Eastcott, "Endsleigh," Gateshead, engineer; Mrs. J. B. Bridge, Fir Vale, Bournemouth; Miss E. M. Walker, Brookside, South Cliff, Bournemouth; Miss S. Bridge, 6 Brewer Street, Maidstone, Kent; and F. Barnes, 52 Gracechurch Street, E.C., Chartered Accountant. The first directors are G. E. Bridge, H. Keene, and H. Eastcott. Qualification 25 shares. Remuneration as fixed by the Company. Registered Office, 128-130 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

BRUNNER, MOND & Co. (LIMITED).—A statement has been published to the effect that the rumours which have been afloat for many months regarding the probable purchase of the works of Bowman, Thompson & Co. (Limited), at Northwich, by Brunner, Mond & Co. (Limited) had at least some ground of truth, and that negotiations were almost completed. We are informed by Messrs. Brunner, Mond & Co. that the report as to the purchase is not correct.

BOOTS (LIMITED).—The annual meeting of shareholders took place at Nottingham on November 30, Mr. Jesse Boot presiding. In moving the adoption of the report (mentioned in *C. & D.*, November 25, page 880), the Chairman drew attention to the fact, for the first time, the accounts had been analysed in the balance-sheet and the goodwill disclosed. A company owning a business for which it has only paid 25,000*l.* goodwill, and which is making a profit of 18,000*l.* per annum, was, he thought, in an exceptionally fortunate position. They intended to continue to purchase properties, and that item of the assets would continue to increase. Since September 30, freehold properties had been purchased which would bring the total amount of their investment in those up to 70,000*l.* After disposing of the accounts, Mr. Boot went on to say:—

There is one very important matter about which I desire to speak to-day, and it is this. The business having attained its present huge dimensions, my chief anxiety is that we should have able men, thoroughly trained and versed in our business, and placed in a position to maintain a continuity of management on the same successful lines as hitherto. It is a singular fact that there is at present no large and successful drug-company where the directors are purely chemists and without having also men of general business knowledge on the board. The chemist's business differs from most businesses, in that for success it requires not only business-ability but a knowledge of infinite detail, and I really feel that the men who are to be our successors in carrying on this business should be those who have had, first, a training as chemists, and then the further advantages of having been trained to the business-experience of a firm like ours, as contrasted with the limited experience to be gained in the mere retailing of drugs in an ordinary chemist's shop. With this in view I have thoroughly discussed the matter with my fellow-directors, and I propose to add such men to our directorate from time to time, not necessarily men of wealth, but selected men from our own staff of chemists who have shown a zeal and ability in working our business which may entitle them to this recognition.

He thought an effect of that decision would be that the firm's chemists would feel like Napoleon's soldiers—that each one had a marshal's baton in his knapsack and only required the opportunity to realise it. Following out that idea, he proposed the addition to the directorate of Mr. E. S. Waring, chemist and druggist, who had been with the firm for fifteen years. They could not, of course, hold out the prospect of all their chemists becoming directors, but by the Chemists' Provident Fund they hoped to make provision for everyone who served the company faithfully for a series of years, so that in case of a breakdown there would be ample provision for him, and in old age a pension-fund to which he might look forward with assurance. The report was unanimously adopted and Mr. Waring elected a director. Mr. Parsons (Sharp, Parsons & Co.), whose firm were re-elected auditors of the company, in the course of a speech of

thanks, said the company had assets over and above goodwill sufficient to pay up all their liabilities and leave over 211,000*l.* surplus. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Boot closed the proceedings.

IDRIS & Co. (LIMITED).—The annual meeting of shareholders was held at Pratt Street, Camden Town, N.W., on December 7, Mr. T. H. W. Idris in the chair. The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the shareholders on the increase in business and increased profits. The directors were able to declare a larger dividend, carry a larger amount forward, and add a larger amount to reserve, which was partly invested in the business, and over 30,000*l.* in outside property and securities, the latter yielding an average of 7½ per cent. The assets were in excess of last year's, owing to increasing business, and freehold and leasehold property had been increased from 75,967*l.* to 99,394*l.* The capital in branch businesses and sundry investments had been increased from 45,487*l.* to 56,435*l.* Stock-in-trade had been increased by 6,972*l.*, while the plant and machinery had only been increased in value on the books by 2,305*l.*, although 5,000*l.* had been spent on additions and repairs. The item of sundry debtors had been decreased by nearly 10,000*l.*, distributed over 3,000 debtors. Mr. Idris also referred to the Stock Exchange quotations for the company's shares, and finally referred to the potash-water cases at Swindon, saying in regard to this matter—

We did not think it worth while to dispute the analysis, as we thought it quite possible that a mistake might have been made in the labelling, or that during the hot weather a change over in filling from potash-water to soda-water might have been effected without completely emptying the cylinder of the soda-water. We have, however, made arrangements to prevent such an occurrence again, and I can assure the shareholders that as far as it is humanly possible we do ensure that our waters do contain the quantities of salts stated on the labels. I, however, still feel that it is quite possible for mistakes to be made outside our premises, as we cannot well refuse to supply labels to customers, to replace those that have been damaged, when requested to do so.

He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet. Questions were invited, but no one had anything to ask, and the report and accounts were unanimously adopted. The Chairman then moved—

That the capital of the company shall be increased from 150,000*l.* to 200,000*l.*, by the creation of 500,000 new "A" preference shares of 1*l.* each, which shall rank *pari passu* in all respects with the existing 70,000 "A" preference shares of 1*l.* each, and that Clause 9 of the Articles of Association be modified accordingly.

This was seconded by Mr. Bradford and unanimously carried. This being all the business, Mr. J. Hick then suggested that as the past year had been a most successful one the company might send a donation—say of one thousand shillings—to the Widows and Orphans Fund. Mr. Idris said that three reservists in the employ of the company had been called out, and the directors had assured them of their berths, and were also taking an interest in those they had left behind them. He thought perhaps it would be wiser if they waited to see what call would be made for their own widows and orphans before sending subscriptions to outsiders. They had already contributed in many ways to the fund, and he was glad to say had also been lucky enough to obtain a large proportion of the orders for transports. A shareholder thought that was the correct view to take. He objected to sending anything more to the Widows and Orphans Fund, especially seeing that there had been 360,000*l.* already raised for the widows and orphans. There was far too much money spent in connection with these diabolical wars. It would be much better to look after the widows and orphans of their own servants. This seemed to be the prevailing opinion, and the matter was dropped. Thanks to the directors and chairman closed the proceedings.

"THERE is nothing to prevent the public from seeking advice from a chemist, and no authority can prevent an unqualified person from practising so long as he does not use any title or description to imply that he is qualified." This is the sensible answer given to a correspondent of the *Lancet*, who wanted to know if he could inform any authority about a case where a servant-girl went to a chemist to have a splinter of wood extracted from under her thumbnail,

London Drug Statistics.

THE following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses from January 1 to November 30, 1899, and to the stocks on November 30. Their accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

	November		Stocks		1899	
	Landed	Delivd.	1899	1898	Imptrd.	Delivd.
Aloes cs &c.	121	142	2,464	2,821	1,590	1,889
" gourdls	—	840	55	1,720	2,269	3,934
Anise, star cs	—	1	62	5	263	206
Balsam csks &c.	90	201	483	433	1,425	1,317
Calumba-root bgs	70	10	286	562	1,169	1,409
Camphor pkgs	179	843	2,122	7,568	6,619	9,400
Cardamoms cs &c.	99	283	1,675	1,187	4,497	4,091
Cinchona pkgs	971	2,977	15,947	20,216	17,921	21,964
Cubebs bgs	—	50	1,774	1,858	127	186
Dragon's-blood cs	27	36	135	29	279	191
Galls pkgs	4	1,319	2,051	3,883	6,439	7,389
Gums—						
Ammoniacum ..	—	4	74	67	31	65
Animi & copal ..	1,319	3,250	10,981	15,034	33,498	36,759
Arabic "	1,698	1,813	11,416	9,895	19,350	14,985
Asafetida ..	183	6	747	351	1,556	1,059
Benzoin "	104	228	1,116	2,342	1,856	2,894
Damar "	322	493	4,546	2,896	6,234	4,817
Galbanum ..	—	—	—	—	—	14
Gamboge	—	19	318	402	197	267
Guaiacum ..	11	—	67	85	104	95
Kauri tons	336	318	1,632	515	4,404	3,333
Kino pkgs	—	9	46	64	92	112
Mastic "	—	5	6	21	28	36
Myrrh, E.I. ..	7	42	312	449	243	367
Olibanum ..	—	581	2,063	2,742	4,868	6,172
Sandarac	65	165	585	858	980	1,342
Tragacanth ..	917	947	1,523	816	8,411	8,373
Ipecacuanha, Rio bls	19	69	171	133	569	556
" other kinds pkgs	55	51	70	31	355	310
Jalap bls	—	1	319	256	160	144
Nux vomica .. pkgs	—	283	116	687	1,441	1,441
Oils—						
Anise cs	—	6	190	253	123	210
" Cassia "	—	10	74	78	43	45
Castor pkgs	219	214	1,047	655	2,441	2,141
Cocoa-nut tons	134	143	196	36	1,253	1,216
Olive csks, &c.	231	175	937	695	2,706	2,269
Palm tons	—	1	9	—	39	35
Quinine sulph. lbs	7,992	3,985	164,658	107,869	110,747	58,334
Rhubarb chts	39	131	1,287	1,726	1,013	1,353
Sarsaparilla bles	95	90	1,285	334	1,116	1,094
Senna bls &c.	747	376	1,086	1,475	3,387	3,515
Shellac, all kinds cs	3,218	5,336	42,106	48,192	43,735	50,697
Turmeric tons	21	24	167	229	353	291
Wax, bees' pkgs	549	727	1,508	2,027	5,850	5,517
" Japan cs &c.	152	50	556	386	877	692

* Stocks of aniseed and cassia oils lying at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included in this return

† Includes the quantity at Red Lion, Bull, and Smith's Wharves; also the Docks.

NOTE.—The stock of aloes in cases is unaltered, but the deliveries have fallen off by 64. Gourds, on the other hand, were in better demand last month, and the stock has been reduced to 55, so that the article is really scarce. The deliveries of balsams show up well, and stocks are being reduced. The stock of cardamoms is gradually growing smaller, but deliveries last month show a shrinkage of 211 cases. The figures regarding the stock of quinine show little change, the stock being equivalent to 5,269,056 oz., while the deliveries fell off by 238,592 oz. for the month, and the importations increased by 59,584 oz. Jalap is lifeless, and stock is moderate. The recent increased inquiry for nux vomica is noticeable by the deliveries last month and the amount in the warehouses is insignificant compared with former years. There were no imports—or, to be more correct, nothing entered the warehouses. It is curious that the figures relating to the importations and deliveries to date should exactly balance—viz., 1,441 packages. The demand for rhubarb was not quite so good last month, only 131 chests being delivered, against 200 in October, while the stock has been reduced by 92 chests. The position of senna is about unchanged, but stock is 550 bales less, notwithstanding smaller deliveries last month.

THE Formosa correspondent of the *Hong-Kong Press* writes that business in Taipei is said to be very dull, the only people doing business worth speaking of being dealers in drugs and medicines, for which there is said to be a growing demand among the Chinese in Formosa.

Trade Report.

The prices quoted below are the bottom prices obtained for bulk quantities by importers and manufacturers, who do not supply retailers. They are in many cases exclusive of various charges.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: December 7.

DULNESS characterises the markets this week, and there are many complaints of the absence of orders. Not a few of the alterations in price, however, are in an upward direction, the principal one being in quicksilver and mercurials. Very high prices are now asked for chamomiles, but supplies here are practically exhausted. German refined camphor has been reduced a penny per lb., while crude is also easier. Quinine is also lower. The changes of the week are as follows:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Acid, carbolic	Menthol	Acid, citric	Camphor
Aconite-root	Opium	Oil, linseed	Copper
Aloes, Cape	Wax, Jamaica	Senna	sulphate
Aloin	Wax, Japanese	Shellac	Ipecacuanha
Chamomiles		Pepper, white	Quinine
Cinchona			Oil, almonds
Cocoa-butter			persic
Galls (Japanese)			Rhubarb
Ginger			Scammony-root
Mercurials			
Quicksilver			
Saffron			
Vermilion			

Among the arrivals of drugs, &c., at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from November 30 to December 6 are the following:—Aloes, 10; albumen, 15; anise, star (Chinese), 50; arsenic, 87; calumba, 11; cardamoms, 120; castor-oil (Ital.), 10, (E.I.) 217; ciuchona (Java) 80, (Ceylon), 65; cochineal, 9; cod-liver oil, 297; croton-seed, 57; dragon's-blood, 14; fennel-seed, 870; fenugreek-seed, 50; galangal, 134; gentian, 57; gum arabic (Suez) 51, (Aden) 136; gum, (unenum.) 26, (Bushire) 150; honey (Chil.) 115, (Aust.) 43; juniper-berries, 45; liquorice-root, 62; oils, essential, (from Hong-Kong) 60, (Sicilian) 20; opium, (Tky.) 100; rhubarb, 83; saffron, 15; spermaceti, 27; soy, 99; turmeric, 141; vanilla, 1; wax, bees' (E.I.) 19, (Ital.) 5, (W.C.A.) 29, (Span.) 10; wax (Japanese), 53; yellow berries, 134.

Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for other market-centres than London.]

A continued activity and the transaction of a steady all-round business, with prices ruling very firm, are still the main features of the heavy-chemical market, and the works generally hold only very small stocks. Buyers, however, in view of the closing of the year, are showing a disposition to cover their present requirements in a hand-to-mouth manner, and a droppings away of orders is quite to be expected now. Considering, however, that the home consuming-trades are well employed the outlook as regards a continuation of a generally good business and steady demand after the New Year is a distinctly bright one. Dyers, calico-printers and bleachers all find trade good, and are very busy. Carpet manufacturers are well supplied with orders, and in some cases they are working overtime. The glass and pottery trades are much busier than they were at this time last year. The paper-makers, especially the "news" manufacturers, are very busy indeed. The paint and colour trades find orders well up to the average for the time of the year. Soaps, both manufacturing and domestic qualities, are in brisk request.

ALKALI PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder and caustic soda show no material change in position; the demand for both is heavy, and prices keep very firm. Soda crystals and ammonia alkali are steady at unchanged rates. Silicates of soda are moving well at higher figures; 140° Tw., 3l. 17s. 6d. to 4l. 2s. 6d.; 100° Two 3l. 12s. 6d.; and 75° Tw., 3l. 5s., all per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool or Tyne, in usual casks, with the customary extras for other packages.

COAL-TAR PRODUCTS are firm all round, and in much better demand. Carbolic acids, crude, 60 per cent, 2s. 9d.; and 75 per

cent., 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d. Crystals, 34° to 35° C., 8½d. to 9d.; 39° to 40° C., 10½d. to 11d. Benzols are quiet—90 per cent., 9½d. to 10d., and 50 per cent., 10½d. to 11d. Anthracene, A grade, 3½d. to 4d., and B grade, 2½d. to 3d. Toluol, 1s. 3d., and pure, 2s. to 2s. 1d. Pyridin, 4s. 6½d. to 4s. 7½d. Aniline oil, 4½d. to 4¾d., and aniline salts, 4½d. Picric acid, 1s. per lb.; croosote, 3d. to 3½d. Naphthas are moving well. Solvent naphtha, 90 per cent., 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.; and 95 per cent., 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. Crude naphtha, 30 per cent., 5d. to 5½d. Solvent wood colourless, 2s. 9d. to 3s.; and miscible, 3s. 7d. to 3s. 10d.

GREEN COPPERAS in heavier demand at 42s. to 43s. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool, for best Lancashire makes. Welsh stands at about 13s. to 14s. per ton in bulk, free on rails.

Liverpool Market.

Liverpool, December 5

QUILLATA-BARK.—Quiet, with small sales at 13l. 5s. per ton.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Cloudy Maranham has been in inquiry, but there is no stock in first hands, and no supplies have come forward this week.

JABORANDI.—A new arrival of 30 bales was recently offered by public auction, but attracted no attention.

HONEY.—The better grades of Chilian have been in fair inquiry, and about 30 barrels of Pile X have been sold at 29s. to 30s. per cwt., and good Pile 1 at 24s. 6d. to 25s. The market has been cleared of Pile 3, 61 barrels selling at 21s. 6d.

CARNAUBA WAX is firmly held owing to small stocks. Small sales of Cereas and grey Maranham have been made at 44s. 6d. to 45s., and 70 bags good yellow, at 68s. 6d. to 72s. 6d. per cwt.

BEESWAX.—Chilian has been in good demand, and about 140 sacks have sold at from 7l. to 7l. 10s. per cwt., and further sales of Buenos Ayres have been made at 6l. 11s. 3d. to 6l. 17s. 6d. The lowest price for Chilian is now 7l. 5s.

CASTOR OIL.—The market is in a weak position, with only a retail business. French of first-pressing has been sold for January delivery at 2½d. per lb.

German Market.

Hamburg, December 5.

Our drug-market does not show much business this week, and there are no changes of moment to be reported.

ALOES, CAPE, continues firm and scarce, at 65m. per 100 kilos.

BALSAM, PERU, is quiet, at 14½m. to 14¾m. per kilo.

CITRIC ACID is lower, at 267½m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPOR, REFINED.—Factories have reduced their quotations to 400m. for prompt delivery, and second-hand is offered at 380m. per 100 kilos.

CONDURANGO-BARK is very firm and dearer, at 200m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT OF RYE continues firm, at 475m. per 100 kilos, for good sound quality.

MENTHOL is very firm and advancing. Kobayashi brand is held for 21½m. per kilo., while other brands offer at a shade less.

LYCOPodium is very firm, at 395m. per 100 kilos.

QUININE is neglected, at 37m. per kilo. nominally.

SFERMACETI is very firm and dearer; 290m. per 100 kilos. is asked to-day.

CEVADILLA-SEED is tending firmer, at 80m. per kilo.

WAX, JAPAN, continues firm, at 65m. per 100 kilos.

CARNAUBA WAX is in more inquiry, at 85m. to 140m. per 100 kilos., according to quality.

All ESSENTIAL OILS are unchanged at the quotations given last week.

American Market.

New York, November 28

Business continues satisfactory, and there is no falling-off in the demand. Fluctuations are small, and generally in an upward direction.

ALOES, CURAÇOA, continues firm, at 4½c. to 5c. per lb. A recent small arrival of Cape is held at 8c.

ALoin is higher in sympathy with the position of aloes; spot quotations are strong, at 45c. to 50c. per lb. Prime quality is scarce.

BALSAMS.—Copaiba is selling freely, at 40c. per lb. for Central American, and 45c. for Pará. Supplies are well concentrated. Tolu is strong, at 30c. to 32c., and advances are expected owing to the revolutions in Venezuela and the U.S. of Columbia. Peru is dull, at \$1.65.

BUCHU-LEAVES are in good demand, but business is restricted owing to scarcity of supplies. Short are strong at 30c. to 33c. and long at 25c. to 27c.

CANNABIS INDICA is selling freely, up to 16c. being paid. Holders now ask 17c. to 18c. for prime green tops.

CANTHARIDES.—Chinese is out of the market, and Russian in light supply, 53c. to 55c. being paid for small parcels. Holders offer very sparingly.

CITRONELEA OIL is firmer, owing to a heavy demand; 23c. to 25c. is asked, according to holder.

COCA-LEAVES are slightly easier on account of new arrivals of Huanoco. Truxillo are steady at 28c. per lb., but Huanoco can be bought at 30c.

ERGOT continues strong; holders of German ask 55c. per lb., and of Spanish 75c. to \$1, and are not anxious to sell.

GAMBOGE is in light supply and values firm, at 40c. per lb. for prime pipe, and 35c. for block.

IPPECACUANHA (RIO) is easier and in light demand; \$3.50 will buy.

PEPPERMINT OIL is selling freely, and values are steady at 90c. per lb. for Western, and 95c. for New York, and \$1.15 for HGH.

SARSAPARILLA (MEXICAN) is firmer, and holders ask 8½c. to 9c. per lb.; small packages are still obtainable at 8½c.

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, November 6, 11 40 A.M.:—The sales of opium this week amount to 135 cases at the equivalent of 7s 6d. to 8s. 10d. per lb. The market is expected to further advance.

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AMSTERDAM, November 7, 5 P.M.:—At the auctions held here to-day 7,087 packages of cichona were offered (against 6,141 packages in November), of which 6,673 were sold at an average unit of 7.75c. per half-kilo., as compared with 6.80c. per half-kilo in November. The following were the approximate quantities purchased by the principal buyers:—English and American buyers purchased the equivalent of 10,605 kilos.; Brunswick factory, 2,984 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 6,092 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Maine and Stuttgart factories, 2,924 kilos.; and various buyers, 4,532 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing-bark ranged from 14¼c. to 86¾c. per half-kilo. and for druggists' from 11c. to 62c. per half-kilo. The tone was very firm.

* * * *

HAMBURG, December 7, 3.30 P.M.:—Refined camphor is quoted at 370m. per 100 kilos, menthol at 21½m. per kilo., and both articles are firm. Elderberries have advanced to 60m. per 100 kilos.

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NEW YORK, December 7, 2.46 P.M.: The tone of the market here is good. Opium is firmer again at \$3.10 per lb. Rio ippecacuanha has declined to \$3.45 per lb., and beeswax is firmer, at 28c. per lb. Cascara sagrada has a hardening tendency, 5½c. now being required. Mexican sarsaparilla has advanced to 9½c. per lb. and is scarce. Paraffin-wax is also ¼c. dearer, while orris-root and sassafras are both wanted, the former being quoted at 10c. and 12c. per lb., and the latter at 10c. per lb.

London Markets.

ACID, CARBOLIC has still an upward tendency. The following are the quotations this week:—Crystals, 39° to 40° C., 10½d. to 11d. per lb.; 34° to 35° C., 10d. Cresylic, 95 per cent., 1s. 4½d. to 1s. 6d. Crude, 60 per cent., 2s. 10d. to 3s.; 75 per cent., 3s. 6d. per gallon.

ACID, CITRIC.—Quiet, at 1s. 2½d. per lb. for English crystals. Concentrated lemon-juice is 13l. 15s. per pipe.

ACONITE-ROOT.—Still scarce, and continental has risen to 50s. per cwt., c.i.f.

ARROWROOT.—Steady, but quiet. In auction 389 barrels St. Vincent were bought in at 4½d. to 5d. per lb.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Some dealers report they are besieged with inquiries which cannot be filled; from 38s. to 40s. per cwt., c.i.f., is quoted nominally.

CLOVES.—At auction 100 bales of Zanzibar were catalogued and withdrawn. Privately the market is quiet, with buyers of Zanzibar for March-May delivery at 3⅞d. per lb.

CAMPOR.—German refined has been reduced by 1d. per lb., so the price for bells is now 1s. 10d. in ton lots for prompt, and 1s. 10½d. for forward delivery. Refiners are reluctant sellers. This movement is supposed to be a try for cheaper second-hand parcels of refined, which are quoted at 1s. 9¾d. per lb., c.i.f., in ton-lots. English refiners do not intend to alter their quotations in the meantime. The market for crude is easier, with sellers of

Japanese at 167s. 6d. per cwt., spot, and for arrival 160s., c.i.f. In auction Japanese refined was bought in at 1s. 11d per lb.; and French refined in bells at the same figure. A parcel of three tubs crude Japanese sold to-day at 155s. per cwt. on re-weights.

CHAMOMILES.—Extreme prices are now asked for Belgian flowers—95s. to 100s. per cwt. in one quarter. There are reports that the equivalent of 113s. to 115s. has been paid on the Continent.

CINCHONA.—Our Amsterdam correspondent, writing on December 1, reports that the shipments from Java during November (according to the figures of the *Nederlandsche Veem*) were as follows:—

—	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895
Amsterdam lbs. Nov. ...	1,362,000	1,737,000	989,000	809,000	1,264,000
January–November ..	10,783,800	10,132,000	7,706,000	9,169,000	8,193,700

The shipments from Ceylon for the week ending November 14 were nil, and the total exports from January 1 to November 14 were:—

Lbs. ...	1899	1898	1897	1896
...	566,177	808,497	633,721	1,231,359

The Vriesseveem cinchona-bark department reports the shipments from Java to Europe from October 31 to December 4 amounted to 1,417,000 Amsterdam lbs., and from January 1 to December 4 at 10,572,403 Amsterdam lbs.

COCOA BUTTER.—At the Amsterdam auctions on Tuesday the sale was irregular. The entire quantity offered was sold, viz.:—Seventy tons Van Houten's, at 93c. to 93½c.; 10 tons Helm at 92½c. to 93½c., and 1 ton foreign brands at 90c. At the London auctions on the same day prices advanced ½d. per lb., 600 cases of Cadbury's brand selling at 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 6¾d., and fine cases 3 oz. tablets at 1s. 7½d. to 1s. 7¾d. per lb.

COPPER SULPHATE, easier at 24/ 7s. 6d. per ton, prompt, Anchor 25/ 10s. and Liverpool 25/ 10s.

CORIANDER SEED.—At auction 73 bags Morocco offered and sold without reserve at 10s. 3d. per cwt. gross for net.

GALLS.—Persian: Firm with a small supply, and business restricted in consequence. Stocks of Smyrna galls are practically exhausted.

GINGER.—Sold in auction at previous to rather dearer rates for medium cut Cochinchina kinds; selected bold cut realised 88s. per cwt.; good bold to medium 72s. 6d.; good small and medium, 51s. 6d. to 52s.; small, 36s.; and bold lined rough, 36s.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—More active this week, and full values have been obtained, seconds selling at 12/ 10s. to 14/ per cwt.; thirds, 11/ to 12/; fourths, 7/ 15s. to 10/ 15s.; and lower grades, 60s. to 6/ 15s. Medium qualities, which are scarce, are the kind most in demand. Bussora hog-gum has sold at 75s. for fine, and Syrian at 29s. to 31s. per cwt.

INSECT FLOWERS.—A steady market is reported from Trieste, with a regular demand. Open flowers are slightly cheaper. The following are the current quotations f.o.b. Trieste:—Open, 46s. 6d. to 47s. 6d. per cwt.; half-open, 52s. 6d. to 72s.; closed, 85s. to 93s.; and wild flowers, 106s. to 118s. The stock in Trieste at the end of November was 287,400 kilos., against 283,000 kilos. in October. The receipts in November were 36,300 kilos., and the deliveries 31,900 kilos.

JUNIPER-BERRIES.—Quoted at 8s. 6d. to 9s. per cwt. spot for good sifted, but demand is slow.

MENTHOL.—About 6d. per lb. dearer than last week, second-hand holders having done business at 10s. per lb. spot for Kobayashi brand. The c.i.f. price has also been advanced to 11s. per lb., and it is reported that this figure has been paid for distant shipment.

MERCURIALS.—Following the advance in quicksilver English makers of mercurials have added 1d. per lb. to their list-prices, and now quote as follows for lots under 112 lbs.:—Calomel, 3s. 2d.; corrosive sublimate, 2s. 10d.; red

precipitate, 3s. 6d.; white precipitate, 3s. 7d.; and yellow precipitate, 3s. 7d. per lb. Market firm at the advance.

OIL, ANISE, STAR.—The market is quiet at 6s. 1d. per lb., spot. In auction good quality was held for 6s. 3d.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—The demand is quiet, 80s. per barrel, c.i.f., being the price generally quoted.

BERGEN, December 2.—The position of non-congealing oil is unchanged at the last quotation of 72s., f.o.b., which is nominal, as nothing is to be obtained at that figure. It is supposed that the exports are reducing the remaining stocks considerably. From Bergen, to date, there have been 13,476 barrels, against 7,719 at the same time last year.

OIL, PEACH-KERNEL, has been reduced by the pressers to 9½d. per lb. for contract lots.

OPIUM.—The London market has been more active and shows a decidedly firm under one on account of the improvement which is reported from Smyrna and Constantinople. Some parcels of druggists' and manufacturing descriptions have been withdrawn from the market, and towards the close of last week a considerable business was done. The quotations are: *Soft shipping* (which is in small demand), good to fine, 10s. to 11s. 6d. per lb.; *Smyrna ditto*, 9s. 3d. to 9s. 9d.; *Druggists' seconds*, 8s. to 8s. 9d.; *ordinary to fine Constantinople*, 9s. 3d. to 9s. 9d. per lb. In *Persian* further sales of fine have been made at a slight advance—viz., 12s. 9d.—and holders now want 13s. per lb.

SMYRNA, November 25.—The sales this week amount to 90 cases, chiefly old and new current tale quale, at the equivalent of 8s. 3d. to 8s. 5d. per lb., c.i.f., for the American markets. Quotations are practically the same as last week; but sellers are more difficult to approach, and the market is considered firmer. Should severe cold weather set in, it is likely that prices will advance. The stock in Smyrna is chiefly in the hands of interested holders, who will seize any opportunity to advance prices, especially if any further large orders should come from the United States. The arrivals to date amount to 2,160 cases, against 1,121 cases at the same period of last year.

PEPPER.—At auction the demand was slow, and everything was bought in. Singapore has been sold privately at 6d. to 6½d. per lb., being steadier. On the spot few sales have been reported; fair is quoted 5½d. White pepper was more freely offered in auction, and of 814 bags Singapore offered, 200 sold at 9½d. for good. The market is quiet privately.

PIMENTO.—Steady. Of 1,204 bags offered about 400 sold, ordinary mixed blacks at 3¼d., and fair 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.

QUICKSILVER.—Advanced 2s. 6d. per bottle on Tuesday. The official quotation, 9/ 12s. 6d., is subject to confirmation.

QUININE.—Dull and featureless. The depressed market is due to the heavy Java bark shipments. Only retail transactions have occurred, and prices in second hands have dropped ¾d., there being sellers of German sulphate at 1s. 1d. per cwt. for December delivery, and March 1s. 1½d.

SAFFRON.—Again advanced to 39s. and 39s. 6d. per lb. net, London terms, for first Valencia.

SERPENTARY is quoted 1s. 4d. per lb., c.i.f.

SHELLAC.—At auction on Tuesday 559 cases offered, of which 84 cases only sold at easier rates: good bright TN at 63s. per cwt.; fair to good bright curly, 61s. to 63s.; bright red shivered, 60s.; fine pale block, 71s.; and dull Rangoon sort, 58s. Sales of fine second orange have been made privately at 74s. to 75s., and TN for December delivery at 62s. 6d. per cwt.

VERMILION.—English manufacturers have advanced their prices 1d. per lb., and now quote 2s. 9½d. for wholesale quantities.

VANILLA.—For the next auctions, to be held on Wednesday, December 13, 1,197 tins are catalogued.

London Drug-auctions.

The last drug-sales of the year were held to-day, and as the first auctions of the New Year are arranged for January 18 there will be an interval of six weeks. Tinnelly's suna was in large supply, but the quality of the bulk offered had appreciably fallen off. Both Rio and Cartagena were also well represented, and, as expected, there was a further decline in values compared with last sales-rates. The

following table shows the business done publicly, the figures referring to original packages:—

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Almonds	4 ... 0	Honey—	
Aloes, Cape	20 ... 20	Chilian	74 ... 21
Curaçao (boxes) ..	106 ... 106	Jamaica	14 ... 14
E.I.	18 ... 0	Ipecacuanha—	
Ambergris	2 ... 2	(Cartagena)	87 ... 0
Anise, star	7 ... 0	(Rio)	52 ... 6
Aniseed Spanish ..	30 ... 10	Jalap	26 ... 3
Annatto seed	38 ... 0	Kamala	2 ... 0
Areca-nuts	19 ... 0	Kino	24 ... 0
Argol, Cape	4 ... 2	Kola-nuts	70 ... 0
Asafetida	25 ... 0	Liquorice-powder ..	25 ... 0
Balsam, Copaiba ..	11 ... 2	„ root	41 ... 0
Peru	3 ... 0	Manna	2 ... 0
Benzoïn—		Matico	10 ... 0
Siam	31 ... 11	Menthol	1 ... 0
Sumatra	165 ... 15	Morphine ..(oz.) ..	500 ... 0
Buchu	13 ... 4	Myrabolams	23 ... 0
Calumba	182 ... 0	Oil, anise, star	22 ... 0
Camphor (Jap.ref.)	25 ... 0	cajuput	10 ... 0
„ (crude)	3 ... 3	cinnamon-leaf	3 ... 0
„ (French		citronella	8 ... 0
ref.)	2 ... 0	cod-liver	85 ... 0
Cannabis indica ...	18 ... 4	eucalyptus	42 ... 1
Cardamoms	164 ... 36	geranium (African)	1 ... 0
Cardamom seeds ...	33 ... 9	lime	4 ... 4
„ wild Ceylon	7 ... 4	orange	1 ... 0
Cascarilla	16 ... 0	peppermint	21 ... 0
Chillies	61 ... 0	sandalwood	1 ... 0
Cinchona	33 ... 0	wood	7 ... 0
Cocaine	1 ... 0	ylang-ylang	1 ... 0
Cocculus indicus ...	35 ... 0	Orange-peel	21 ... 3
Colocyath	13 ... 6	Orris-root	40 ... 0
Croton-seed	58 ... 0	Otto, rose	1 ... 1
Cubes	67 ... 0	Ox-tongues (doz.) ..	60 ... 0
Cumin-seed	25 ... 0	Patchouli-leaves ...	2 ... 2
Cuscut	11 ... 0	Poonac	2 ... 0
Cuttlefish-bone ...	5 ... 0	Rhatany	75 ... 0
Dragon's-blood ...	22 ... 0	Rhubarb	159 ... 26
Elaterium	1 ... 0	Sandalwood-chips ...	497 ... 0
Ergot of rye	11 ... 0	Sarsaparilla	59 ... 9
Fennel-seed	15 ... 0	Scammonium	14 ... 0
Galls	5 ... 5	Scammony-root	197 ... 167
Gentian	34 ... 0	Senna, Alexandrian ..	69 ... 1
Gum arabic	132 ... 10	Tinnevely	666 ... 665
galbanum	15 ... 0	Soy, China	50 ... 0
gamboge	2 ... 0	Squills	33 ... 0
grass-tree	19 ... 0	Strophanthus	6 ... 0
guaiacum	21 ... 18	Tamarinds	65 ... 15
mastic	18 ... 0	Tonka-beans	22 ... 0
myrrh	58 ... 0	Vanillon	5 ... 2
tragacanth	16 ... 0	Wax (bees')	262 ... 42
Honey, Australian ..	172 ... 20	Japan	22 ... 22
Californian	28 ... 28	Yellow berries	29 ... 0

ALOES.—A new arrival of 100 boxes Curaçoa, all more or less damp, sold at 32s. down to 23s. for good brown liver to black and capey, and water-damaged 15s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. per cwt. Cape aloes was about 1s. per cwt. dearer, fair to good hard bright selling at 28s. to 29s. 6d. per cwt. Of East Indian aloes 18 boxes were offered and bought in at 40s. nominally, the quality being hard black Mocha.

AMBERGRIS.—Two tins were offered; one sold at 97s. 6d. per oz. for broken nodule of very fine flavour, and the other tin at 22s. for black undeveloped.

ANISEED.—Spanish partly sold at 25s. per cwt.

ARGOL.—Fair pinky from the Cape brought 47s. and 42s. per cwt.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—Two casks of thin cloudy Maranham were bought in at 1s. 6½d. per lb.; another parcel of 2 cases cloudy to reddish balsam brought 1s. 3d.

BALSAM PERU.—7s. 3d. per lb. was the limit for fair thickish.

BENZOIN.—Firmly held, but slow of sale. Only in one or two cases, where lots were offered without reserve, were they disposed of at cheap rates. Sumatra gum, good seconds, well almonded and packed, storax flavour, were held for 10l. 10s. per cwt.; fair seconds, rather false-packed, small almonds, old fracture, 7l. 15s. (without reserve); and ditto, badly packed, 6l. 5s. Of 30 cases common seconds, 4 sold at 5l. 10s., but nobody would go on at the figure. Of Siam,

a parcel of 9 cases offered without reserve, and sold at 10l. to 10l. 5s. per cwt. for small to medium and partly blocky almonds; other sales were dark block at 65s. and 85s., and siftings in block at 45s. per cwt.

BUCHU-LEAVES.—In limited supply, the offering being of new import and in the hands of one broker; 11d. per lb. was refused for good green round leaves, 1s. being the limit. Four bales of fair "long" all sold at 9½d. to 9¾d.

CALUMBA.—An offer of 27s. 6d. per cwt. is to be submitted for small to bold natural root, which was 2s. 6d. under the limit. Three other parcels were bought in.

CANNABIS INDICA.—Fair green tops, partly broken, were held for 3d. per lb. A lot of 4 bales sold at 2½d. per lb. "with all faults."

CARDAMOMS.—Although a meagre supply offered, only a small proportion sold, at the following unchanged rates:—Ceylon-Mysore: good medium to bold pale round, 4s. 1d. per lb.; medium ditto, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 4d.; small to medium pale, 2s. 9d.; small ditto, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 9d.; brown splits.. 1s. 11d. Ceylon-Malabar: small lean brown, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Wild Ceylon: good bold, 3s. 10d. to 4s., and lean brown. 2s. 11d. to 3s. 1d. Cardamom-seeds: 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. according to quality.

The shipments from Ceylon for the week ending November 14 were 6,440 lbs., of which 3,705 lbs. went to Hamburg and 1,855 lbs. to London. From January 1 to November 14 they have been:—

	1899	1898	1897	1896
Lbs.	372,092	429,757	439,040	335,024

COCAINE.—A package of crude from Peru, analysing 817 per cent., was bought in at 16s. per cz. nominally.

COLOCYNTH sold at unchanged rates, 1s. 5d. being paid for small to bold and white apple from Marseilles; another parcel was held for 1s. 8d.

CUBES.—In auction 67 bales were offered and bought in. A sale of 550 bales coarse medium berries was recently made in Amsterdam at 10c. above valuation.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—No business was effected publicly, good medium lump of fair colour being bought in at 9l. to 9l. 10s. per cwt. Reeds have been sold privately at 10l. 10s., and 3 cases offered publicly had been sold previous to the sale at that figure, the broker intimating that a few more cases were available.

ERGOT OF RYE.—Sifted Spanish was held for 2s. 3d. per lb., and for good Russian the same figure is wanted.

GUM GUAIAIACUM.—For good green glassy resin 1s. 9d. per lb. was paid, and for dark and drossy block 4d. to 8d. per lb.; for ditto with little gum 1¾d. to 2½d. was paid.

GUM, KINO.—Small Cochín grain was limited at 1s. 9d. per lb., a which figure small sales are reported privately.

GUM MYRRH.—Good pale picked gum was bought in at 5l. 5s. per cwt.

HONEY.—Jamaica was scarce to-day, and everything was sold at 27s. per cwt. for nice white set, and 24s. 6d. for dark amber liquid. Yellowish set Chilian realised 29s., and for partly set Australian of mixed colours 25s. was paid. Californian honey was offered and sold without reserve, 34s. 6d. to 35s. being paid for nice white and brown partly set.

A British consular report on the trade of San Francisco states that the harvest for 1898 was so small that the Secretary of the Beekeepers' Association complained last autumn of having orders for over 600 tons of honey with not a ton on hand to execute them.

IPECACUANHA.—The general opinion was that there would be a decline at auction to-day, and the anticipation proved correct, Rio root selling at 6l. to 9d. per lb. lower rates. All the Cartagena offered was bought in, mostly at 9s., but it was understood that 8s. 6d. was the price, and several bales were reported to have changed hands after the auction at this figure. Some half-dozen bales of Rio sold at from 11s. 6d. for lean and wiry damaged to 11s. 9d. and 12s. for good natural.

JALAP.—Damages were the only kind disposed of, and 5¾d. to 6d. per lb. was paid for them. Good sound small tuber was bought in at 7d.

MORPHINE.—A parcel of 500 cases Wink's hydrochloride was bought in at 4s 9d., a bid of 4s. 5d. being refused; 4s. 6d. was the limit.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—That the scarcity of good eucalyptus oil is becoming accentuated is proved by the fact that at to-day's sales the only oil, other than "commercial," offered was Globulus ("Platypus" brand), the price of which remains in the meantime at 2s. 2d. per lb. The supply from Australia is diminishing, one cause being the demand from other markets, who are offering higher prices for good cineol oils. The limits in auction for commercial oil had been reduced in one instance to 9d. per lb., and a bid of 8½d. was refused. Four cases of Rhisdonia oil were bought in nominally at 1s. 6d., and a case of Portuguese oil sold at 1s. 9d. per lb.

OIL OF LIMES.—For West Indian distilled oil, which was in small supply, 3s. 1d. per lb. was paid.

OTTO OF ROSE—One vase realised 14s. per T. oz.

PATCHOULI-LEAVES.—Two cases offered without reserve brought 3½d. per lb. for common dark.

RHUBARB.—Slow of sale in auction, and where business was done easier rates were paid, sellers being anxious to force sales. The following prices were paid:—Canton pickings, very rough, round and flat, 6d. per lb.; round bold Canton, 7d.; flat ditto, pinky and grey fracture, 8½d.; and small flat, 9d.; medium round, part trimming root, 11d. per lb.; High-dried, low wormy and of grey fracture, 5d.; Shensi, medium to bold round, fair coat, part wormy, poor fracture, 9½d.; small round, part trimming root, dull coat, 1s. 2d.

Shanghai advices, dated October 16, report that real fine quality of Shensi and Canton root is not to be had, and there is little business doing in consequence. Common round is abundant. The shipments from Shanghai during September were 624 piculs, divided as follows:—New York, 264; London, 122; Hamburg, 108; Kobe, 67; Bremen, 25; Genoa, 23; and Marseilles, 15 piculs.

SARSAPARILLA.—Gennine grey Jamaica root was represented by 22 bales, of which seven sold at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. for damages; good red native Jamaica realised 1s. 2d., Lima Jamaica was bought in at 1s. 3d. nominally, and Honduras at 1s. 4d.; a bid of 5½d. was refused for Mexican, the limit being 5½d.

SCAMMONY-ROOT.—The bulk of this article was "slaughtered," 19s. per cwt. being paid subject to sellers' approval; a second broker who offered this drug is holding out for 21s. to 22s. per cwt.

SENA.—This was the chief feature of the sale to-day, the quantity offered exceeding that of previous auctions this year. The quality of the Tinnevely leaf brought forward was by no means equal to former shipments of this season's crop. Bayers were eager for it, however, and everything was sold at about ¼d. easier rates, the following prices being paid:—Good to bold green Tinnevely, 4½d. to 5½d.; medium to fair yellowish green, 4d. to 4½d.; and small to medium specky and brown, 2½d. to 3½d. per lb. Pods sold at 3½d. Of Alexandrian senna 1 case only sold at 8d. per lb. The s.s. *Carthage*, due next week, brings 770 bales of Tinnevely. An auction of senna will be held on Thursday, December 21. Holders of Alexandrian leaves continue to ask high prices privately, but there is little demand.

TAMARINDS.—East Indian, the only kind offered, partly sold without reserve at 6s. 6d. per cwt.

TONKA-BEANS.—Black Para was the only kind sold, and 11½d. was paid; two parcels of good Angostura beans were limited at 3s. per lb., and there was little desire on the part of the brokers to sell.

WAX, BEES.—Jamaica was as usual well bid for, and 2s. 6d. per cwt. dearer rates were paid for good hard red and yellow—namely, 7l. to 7l. 2s. 6d. Zanzibar wax was in small supply, and sold at 6l. 7s. 6d. to 6l. 10s. for mixed colours. Dull bleached Calcutta wax sold at 7l., and Bombay of mixed colours at 5l. 5s. to 5l. 15s.; these were the only sales.

WAX, JAPANESE.—In auction 30s. 6d. per cwt. was paid for good pale squares, subject to approval. Privately 35s. c.i.f. is quoted by importers for December-February shipment, being dearer.

The Sicilian Sumach Syndicate.

With reference to a note in our issue of October 21, page 664, a further report from Palermo has come to hand, from which we gather that the operations of the first two months of the ring have not been very promising. This result is chiefly due to the high prices demanded for this commodity. Very little sumach has gone to the United Kingdom since the formation of the combination. The local purchasing-prices offered for sumach by the ring for delivery at their mills in Palermo have fallen to 17-75 lire per 100 kilos. for baling leaf (first quality), 17-50 lire per 100 kilos. for grinding leaf (second quality), and 14-50 lire per 100 kilos. for "femmiello" of first quality. In this connection we hear that extensive sumach-cultivation has been started in Cyprus, and it is expected, if it should succeed and be kept free from the Sicilian ring, it will be a serious factor to consider in the market. Some samples of Cyprus sumach shipped to the United Kingdom were found to "spot" the skins in which it was used. This defect was attributed by English tanners to imperfect ventilation or milling.

The Olive-oil Market.

Advices from the producing-countries show that the unfavourable reports regarding olive-crops are now fully confirmed. Especially is this so in Italy, where the yield is expected to fall far short of the actual home consumption. From Messina it is reported that the crops have suffered further injury from the continued sirocco winds and the fall of olives. Prices have risen considerably, and large purchases have been made for 1900 delivery. In Spain, reports are favourable regarding the quality of the crop, and the inquiry from Italy has caused an advance. In the Levant prices also continue to advance.

Coming Events.

Monday, December 11.

Edinburgh Pharmacy Athletic Club, West-end Café, Edinburgh, at 8.30 p.m. Smoking-concert and cinematograph-entertainment.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 8.15 p.m. Evening meeting. Mr. P. Kelly on "The Development of Plant-life from Seed to Fruit."

Dewsbury and District Chemists' Association, Town Hall, Dewsbury, at 8.30. Discussion on the Defence Scheme and Companies Bill.

Tuesday, December 12

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 8 p.m. Evening meeting. Professor J. Millar Thomson, F.R.S., on "Some Relation of Water to other Substances."

Wednesday, December 13.

Newcastle-on-Tyne Chemists' Association, Hotel Métropole, at 8.30 p.m. Smoking-concert.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 9.15 p.m. "New Remedies," by Mr. D. McEwan.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association, Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9.15. Mr. J. Barclay, B.Sc., on "Laboratory Notes."

Thursday, December 14.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, W., at 8.30. Musical and social evening.

Liverpool Chemists' Association, at the Royal Institution at 7 p.m. Note on "Liq. Bismuthi," by Messrs. R. C. Cowley and J. P. Catford.

Friday, December 15

Glasgow Chemists and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association, 100 West Regent Street, Glasgow, at 9.15 p.m. Dr. J. Erskine, M.A., on "The Hospitals of Glasgow."

A grand military assault-at-arms, in aid of the Mincing Lane Transvaal War Fund, will be given by the 4th V.B. Middlesex Volunteers, in conjunction with the Orion Gymnastic Club, at the Orion Hall, Hackney, on Tuesday, December 19, at 8 o'clock. Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. each, may be obtained from Mr. W. W. Green, 25 Mincing Lane, E.C.

